

THE BAKER COUNTY PRESS

80th Year, Vol. 41 • Winner of 9 state awards for journalism excellence in 2008



Re-enactors converge on Olustee for annual battle and festival
See page 16

Wildcat basketball's playoff run ends at home against Snyder
See page 13



NEFSH cost-care study 'rigged'

Say foes of private contract

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The results of a study comparing costs, staffing and treatment at three state mental health hospitals, including Northeast Florida State Hospital, show that while treatment costs more at the Macclenny facility, patients are better for it.

The Florida Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability, or OPPAGA, conducted the re-

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STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL COMPARISON	STATE MANAGED		PRIVATELY MANAGED
	Northeast Florida State Hospital	Florida State Hospital	South Florida State Hospital
Percentage of patients showing improvement	90.75%	88%	86.5%
Rate of harmful patient events (per 100 patients)	1.7	1.5	2.8
Number of re-admissions after six months	12	10	21
Number of direct-care staff per patient	1.29	1.5	1.11
Median length of stay in days for discharged patients	298	189	177
Cost per patient per day	\$336	\$379	\$321

Source: Florida Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability

Beating suspect is being returned

JOEL ADDINGTON
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The Tennessee man accused of severely beating a friend at a Macclenny motel February 3, was arrested at his mother's residence in Surgoinsville, Tenn. about a week later.

Baker County sheriff's investigator Chuck Brannan went February 15 to pick up Adam Leslie Woods, 27, who made his initial court appearance in Rogersville, Tenn., a location similar to Macclenny, the investigator said.

"He really beat that guy

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Presented French Legion of Honor

Elgin Barnes recognized for post-D-Day combat

KELLEY LANNIGAN | FEATURES
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The date was June 11, 1944. American soldiers were fighting to liberate the small French village of La Haye from the grip of German Nazis when an enemy mortar exploded in their midst.

The walls of the church they were standing next to were reduced to rubble. The surviving soldiers were loaded on a jeep and rushed to a makeshift hospital in the middle of a cornfield. As the surgeon worked frantically to stabilize the deep wound in his chest, nineteen-year-old Elgin Barnes wondered if he would see his beloved Baker County again...



Elgin Barnes

rifices of his friends in battle," said the diplomat before pinning the shiny green and white decoration to Mr. Barnes' lapel.

The French Legion of Honor medal is the highest award given by the French government. Mr. Barnes has received six other medals for his military service, including the Purple Heart.

His recognition was followed by those honoring five others who helped storm the beach at Normandy on D-Day, which led to the liberation of France from its German occupiers. They included Edmund Di Bianco of Palm Coast, Roper Ellis of Jacksonville, Rudolph Marini of Middleburg, John Robertson of Jacksonville and Lester Ellison of Orange Park.

The principal trumpet player from the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Cliff Newton, also performed the national anthems of both France and the US. The ceremony was hosted



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

Elgin Barnes receives the French Legion of Honor medal.

by the City of Jacksonville Veterans Affairs office and Francois Kloc, president of *Alliance Francaise de Jacksonville*.

Many of the veterans' family members, friends and others, like the Patriot Guard Riders who formed a flag line during the proceedings, were on hand as well.

"I was so thrilled to be able to go to the ceremony because I am so amazingly proud of him," wrote Mr. Ellison's granddaughter on her blog. "And I even got to speak some French."

What follows are a number of Mr. Barnes' recollections from the more than seven decades since the day he was injured by that mortar blast.

An encampment near Omaha Beach June 14, 1944

When the worst of the initial fighting was over, a clergyman held a brief service for the men. The soldiers then began moving in to set up camp. From their elevated location, they could look down on a farm in a valley. Sometimes they saw a woman come out of the house and do her chores, which included feeding her chickens.

The chickens started to look a whole lot better than the K-Rations the men were living on. One American soldier spoke French. Keeping out of sight as much as possible, he made his way down the valley to the farm

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County passes on replacement of a code officer

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The county will not replace its code enforcement officer, a position vacated with the death of Phil Thomas in December of 2009.

Though the county's code enforcement board has met only once since last September, Building Department director Bob Hathcox said he and his secretary have been fielding code enforcement complaints, visiting properties to verify violations, mailing certified notices and giving property owners guidance on coming into compliance.

"There's quite a bit to do for code enforcement," he told the Baker County Commission the evening of February 15 while requesting board members authorize filling the position.

Mr. Hathcox recommended 24 hours a week at roughly \$10 an hour. The position was budgeted this year for 30 hours a week at \$13 per hour this year.

"We've grown to a point in Baker County that we need to consider hiring a code enforcement officer," he said, citing the six hours he spent reviewing property records for a new code enforcement case.

Mr. Hathcox said that contrary to the assumption that the work load has slowed in the building department, there were 139 permits issued and 362 inspections completed in the last three months of 2009; partially due to a 14-percent increase in housing.

"If we do not hire someone, there is a possibility that some-

thing in code enforcement will go slacking, or on the building side," he said, adding that residents could see a drop in the quality of service they've had in the past. "What we need is not a contract person, it's someone that's sympathetic to the citizens of Baker County."

Commissioners, anticipating falling revenues for next year's budget, were not convinced.

"Companies across the country are asking employees to do more with less ..." noted Commissioner Mike Griffis.

He suggested that if a backlog of code enforcement cases develops, the county could consider contracting with another jurisdiction like the City of Macclenny or neighboring counties that may have available manpower.

"We're going to have to think outside the box on this budget," Mr. Griffis said.

Commissioners Mark Hartley and Alex Robinson agreed that now was not the right time to fill the position.

Mr. Hartley called for assistant county planner Carolyn Bissonnette to assist Mr. Hathcox's staff in moving code enforcement cases forward.

"I think we need to try that first," he said.

In other business this week, the board awarded the contract for installation of a well and septic system at St. Mary Shoal's Park to low bidders Connie White Septic Tank at \$6391 and Roger Raulerson Well Drilling at \$5600. Three bids were received for the septic system and two on the well.

Baker County health outcomes expected to rank

eighth worst in

Florida

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NEFSH study is said 'rigged'

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view, which a handful of NEFSH employees believe was biased from the start.

Draft memorandums reporting OPPAGA's results have been given to legislators and the Department of Children and Families, the state department responsible for governing the three facilities.

A copy of the draft dated February 4 was obtained by *The Baker County Press*, though not by OPPAGA, which cited a statutory exemption to public records laws for "working papers" of the state's auditor general.

OPPAGA is overseen by the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, made up of senators and representatives from both parties, but chaired by two Republicans, Representative Greg Evers of Milton and senate majority leader Alex Diaz de la Portilla of Miami. The committee also appoints Florida's auditor general.

Besides NEFSH, the publicly-managed Florida State Hospital [FSH] in Chattahoochee and South Florida State Hospital [SFSH] in Pembroke Pines were the other two facilities evaluated. The latter hospital is managed by GEO Group, Inc., which runs prisons, hospitals and mental health facilities for government agencies worldwide.

Specifically, OPPAGA examined each hospital's bed capacity, patient loads, funding, patient-to-staff ratios, the characteristics of patients treated and key performance measures like how long patients stay, patient improvement, how often they're readmitted after treatment and the frequency of "harmful" patient events.

"I hate to say it was a political deal, but I know it was," said Macclenny City Commissioner and NEFSH employee Phil Rhoden. "The questions they asked were designed to make GEO look good."

The results

The February 4 draft reports that NEFSH's cost per patient per day of care was \$336 for the 2008-09 fiscal year while the same cost was \$321 at SFSH and \$379 at FSH. Similarly, FSH had the highest staff-to-patient ratio at 1.5 staffers for each patient, while NEFSH had 1.29 and SFSH 1.11; all during 2008-09.

The figures account for only direct-care staff like physicians, nurses, pharmacists and mental health treatment providers.

However, the Macclenny hospital showed the highest percentage of patients whose functioning improved between the 2006-07 and 2008-09 fiscal years.

The percent of patients demonstrating better abilities, emotional states, relationships and personal safety averaged 90.75 percent at NEFSH, 88 percent at SFSH and 86.5 percent at FSH.

Patients also tended to remain longer at NEFSH, where the estimated average length of stay in days during the three years above measured 608 days. Meanwhile, the same average at FSH reached 427 days and only 212 days at SFSH, the facility managed by GEO Group.

According to Dr. Gary Dopson, the mayor of Macclenny who also works for NEFSH, those statistics

are somewhat deceiving.

"GEO is going to beat us on that because we have to take their traumatic brain injuries," he said. "They usually have to stay. They don't get out ... The study was designed to make us look bad and GEO look good."

However, when OPPAGA examined the length of stays for patients that were eventually discharged during the three-year period, stays at NEFSH averaged 298 days while those at SFSH and FSH averaged 177 and 189, respectively.

The high number of discharges at SFSH, which totaled 563 for 2006-07 through 2008-09, also led to a lower readmission percentage for the facility.

The percentage represents the number of patients readmitted within six months after being discharged. While the Pembroke Pines hospital had the most readmissions at 21, the readmission percentage was slightly lower than NEFSH's percentage of 4.4 percent, with 12 patients returning out of 271 discharged from the Macclenny hospital.

FSH's readmissions amounted to 2.3 percent of 428 patients discharged.

OPPAGA noted the differences were not statistically significant.

Why now?

OPPAGA's review came less than a year after a heated debate over privatizing management at NEFSH during the 2009 legislative session.

Proponents of the move framed it as a way for the cash-strapped state to save millions of dollars in the budget.

Opponents of privatization pointed to the high quality of patient care at the facility and its economic importance to the community.

NEFSH employs more than 500 Baker County residents and more than 1200 in all. Officials feared that if run privately, jobs and benefits could be slashed or the hospital relocated to another county altogether.

The push for privatization failed in 2009, but many here believe the reprieve is only temporary.

Over the last year NEFSH has identified more than \$3.7 million in potential cost-savings and attained national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities or CARF, an international accrediting body for non-surgical health care facilities.

Beating suspect caught

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pretty bad," said Mr. Brannan, adding that it took two surgeries to reconstruct the bones in the victim's face.

William Tomblin, 34, of Morristown, Tenn. was flown to Shands Jacksonville following the 5:30 am attack at the American Inn on South 6th St.

According to police reports, Mr. Tomblin said he was struck repeatedly by 28-inch metal baseball bat after refusing to give Mr. Woods money.

The two men had been friends for about four years and were traveling to a pain clinic in Jacksonville. Mr. Tomblin told deputies he'd been seeing a doctor in South Florida for some time, and the office had opened a closer branch in Jacksonville.

The night before the beating, the men had been drinking both at the motel and a local bar. Mr. Tomblin said Mr. Woods wanted to leave to buy drugs, but that he declined and went to bed. When Mr. Tomblin awoke, the suspect was standing over him with the bat and demanded the money, the victim said.

Mr. Tomblin managed to push his assailant out of the motel room and lock the door. Surveillance video shows Mr. Woods dropping the bat in a garbage can and leaving in a white Ford

Ranger.

Evidence collected by investigators included blood-stained sheets and pillows. The motel room's carpet had to be cleaned and the walls repainted.

Police in Morristown confirmed Mr. Woods' identity and warrant was issued for his arrest. Mr. Woods is expected to make his first appearance in court here February 16 on aggravated battery and property damage charges.

Benefit trail ride

A benefit trail ride for Daniel Dice will start at 9:00 am on March 6 at the Taylor store at the end of Hwy. 125. Mr. Dice has throat cancer and 100% of the donations will go to the family to help with expenses. To RSVP and for any questions please call Joe and Tonya Bennett at 259-7767, or Chris and Judy Blue at 653-1213.

Finishes basic

Navy Fireman Kasey W. Karnes, the son of Cindy M. Register of Macclenny, recently completed eight weeks of Navy basic training with honors at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Karnes is a 2007 graduate of Baker County High School.

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OPINION

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Letters are welcome, but must contain the signature of the writer, a telephone number and city of residence. Letters must reflect opinions and statements on issues of current interest to the general public. The newspaper reserves the right to reject any material which in the newspaper's judgement does not meet standards of publication.

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She was in on the '50th birthday' conspiracy

THE BACK PORCH

Kelley Lannigan

Poor Joel Barber. He got set-up good recently.

He arrived at Gibson McDonald furniture store where he works on what he thought would be a routine Wednesday, only to find large multi-colored posters bearing his image plastered on the front doors.

Seems his employees conspired with the company's corporate office to create some advertising for a 50% off sale to coincide with his 50th birthday.

Nearly a full page in size, the advertisement featured three photos of Joel: one from third grade, one from high school graduation, and one taken just two weeks ago. The ad also ran on the back page of *The Press*, meaning that everywhere he went he'd get to see himself all over Baker County.

Unassuming and humble, Joel is not the sort to draw attention to himself. If posters and the ad weren't bad enough, he entered the store to find his desk sabotaged as well.

His desk chair was missing and there was a wheelchair and a walker in its place. On the desk sat a case of Depends undergarments, compliments of his loyal staff. A video featuring a hair replacement service played non-stop on a nearby large screen TV.

I was in on the conspiracy. My role was to take the recent photo for the ad. I don't know what excuse his employees gave him, but

I had to play innocent. I guess I did a good job. The poor man never had a clue.

I caught up with him a few days ago and asked if he'd enjoyed his birthday.

"I'm about sick of looking at myself and seeing myself coming and going," he said.

Seems I influenced his wife's birthday celebration, too. When I decided to jump out of an airplane over Cape Canaveral last August, my account of the event ran in *The Press* and Joel saw it.

"That's what I'm giving Bambi for her birthday!" he declared when I saw him at a Rotary Club

meeting one day. "She's always wanted to sky dive and that would be the perfect gift."

And so he did. Bambi is scheduled to make her jump soon.

I saw her a few days ago.

I asked if she was looking forward to being airborne, won-

dering if her experience would resemble mine.

She started to laugh.

"I can't wait," she said. "But to be on the safe side, I think I'll take along one of those Depends Joel got for his birthday. You never know."



Seeing snow in Atlanta brought back Buffalo

Memory of going to the dentist in a blizzard — pulled by a sled

MY SIDE OF THE MATTER

ROBERT GERARD

When we left for Tennessee on Friday to visit our daughter Sara Beth at the Cumberland County Playhouse it was raining.

And raining. And raining. It was miserable. The rain pounded down on the car and made the driving treacherous as we drove north through Georgia.

There's a great sentence in Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man is Hard to Find" that perfectly describes how I feel about driving through Georgia. The little boy looks at his father and says, "Let's drive through Georgia fast so we don't have to look at it."

Unfortunately, when you're driving through the rain, you don't get to drive through Georgia fast and you have to look at it.

There's not much to see and the rain doesn't make it any prettier.

Then, around Macon, things began to change.

"I think the rain is turning to snow," I said.

"It does look more solid," observed wife Kelley.

Within a few miles it was definitely snowing. As we passed Macon and got closer to Atlanta it was steadily snowing. That's when I made my first mistake. I decided to skip the bypass and drive through Atlanta.

I hate the bypass around Atlanta. There's always construction and it's very confusing. I prefer going through the city and at 2:00 pm it shouldn't have been a big deal. But little did I know they had let school out for the snow and businesses had sent home their workers. Everyone and their brother was trying to leave Atlanta at the same time I was trying to drive through it.

And now it was *really* snowing — driving snow, snow in the trees, snow covering parked cars, snow slamming into my windshield. Going 10 mph through Atlanta allowed



me plenty of time to enjoy the snow and think back.

This wasn't my first time in snow. I am a veteran of snow — well, kind of. I'm as much a veteran as a kid of six could be. When I was six years old I lived in Buffalo, New York and snow was part of our everyday vocabulary.

My father's sentences were punctuated by phrases like "lake effect snow (meaning wind so high that they piled 14-foot drifts)," "ice storm (much worse than snow storms)," "white out (can't see a foot in front of you and if you don't wear sun glasses you get 'snow blind')," and "slush (not nearly as much fun as a 'slushy')."

"It's so pretty," Kelley said as we crawled along at 10 mph.

I had to agree. Snow is really beautiful when you are looking at it through a window. When you aren't it is really wet and cold.

I remember the 14-foot drifts. One of my earliest memories as a kid was being snowed in. It was fine with me, heck, I was 5 years old. It was not, however, okay with my dad who couldn't open the front door because he was met with a mountain of the white stuff.

In frustration, my dad went down in the basement with a

snow shovel. He opened up the basement window and shoveled the snow onto the cement floor until he had a tunnel to the outside world. He crawled out and several hours later we were able to open the front door.

At least until the next snow storm.

The only thing I remember clearly about being in a blizzard was the day I woke up with an abscessed tooth. I was up all night in pain and the snow drifted down outside the window.

It was unsafe to drive but the dentist office was open downtown and they would see me. My parents weren't going to let a blizzard stop them from getting their 5-year-old son to the dentist's office.

They packed me up in my snow suit (see Randy in *A Christmas Story*). A snow suit is like being encased in armor. Then they strapped me to my sled and pulled me out into the bliz-

zard.

It was frightfully cold and the dentist's office was about 10 blocks away. I couldn't see anything and could barely see my parents. It was bitter cold, but my tooth hurt so badly I didn't care. Ironically, after the dentist fixed my tooth I got a certificate for a free ice cream cone.

My parents passed on the ice cream shop on the way home.

The snow stopped on the outskirts of Chattanooga. Though it was in the twenties the whole time we were there, we got to see Sara Beth sing and dance in *Annie* and enjoy the hilarious *Greater Tuna*.

This morning when we woke up there was a foot of snow on the ground. It came from out of nowhere and made Sara's house and grounds look like a fairyland. It was absolutely beautiful and delayed our departure as we threw snowballs and took pictures. For me, it took me back to my childhood. Doesn't get much better than that.

Study of NEFSH adds little to debate

On Point In Print

Joel Addington

While reporting about the review of NEFSH and two other state mental health facilities — one under government management and another privately managed — by a group of researchers working on behalf of the Florida Legislature, I was struck by how much sense the results made; and how "not surprising" they really were.

After digesting most of the 18-page draft memorandum on the review's findings, and seeing in black and white the data, appended and footnoted at every turn, I thought, *I probably would've come to the same conclusion if I had just spit-balled an answer to the basic question posed by the study itself.*

Is privatizing management at more of the state's residential mental health facilities the best course of action?

I would have said that sure, a corporation like GEO Group, with its wealth of experience in the field and global resources, would surely be able to save the state some cash. Their lobbyists were touting a roughly \$4 million annual savings last year.

At least initially, the state would win, the taxpayers by extension and GEO's brass and shareholders as well.

But I also would've been willing to gamble that patients would be the losers, that treatment would not be as effective, and in the long run, taxpayers would shoulder the burden as they always do.

One NEFSH doctor said — off the record of course — that he believed GEO would be willing to low-ball its contract with the state, take financial losses in the beginning, in hopes of gaining control of all the state's hospitals in the future.

And once Tallahassee hands over the keys, wresting them back when GEO, or whoever, demanded an ever-increasing management fee could prove very difficult, he said.

Who knows? What we do know, thanks to OPPAGA's good work, is that it costs about \$15 more per patient per day for treatment at NEFSH compared to the GEO-run facility, South Florida State Hospital, which is about half NEFSH's size.

GEO's contract relieves it of treating patients suffering from traumatic brain injuries. According to OPPAGA, the Pembroke Pines hospital managed by GEO has a 16 percent lower ratio of direct-care staff to patients than NEFSH and 35 percent lower than the publicly-run Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee.

You can see where the extra \$15 per patient is going. OPPAGA also reported that patients spend less time at the GEO facility than at NEFSH before being discharged. If they could treat people faster and show the same outcomes as NEFSH, that would be noteworthy. But they can't.

GEO patients are showing less improvement than those at NEFSH and the rate of "harmful events" (whatever that means) for GEO patients is 2.8 per 100 versus 1.7 at NEFSH.

I was dumbfounded to discover that when more dollars are spent on patients for longer periods of time, their health outcomes turn out better.

That's a shocker.

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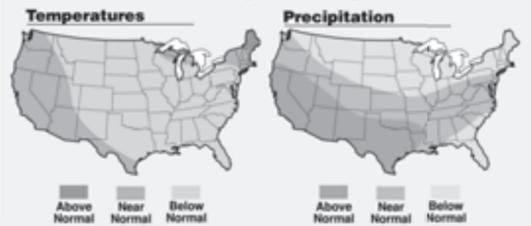
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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
High: 58° Low: 29°	High: 64° Low: 34°	High: 68° Low: 41°	High: 70° Low: 43°	High: 71° Low: 47°	High: 69° Low: 48°	High: 65° Low: 52°

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

February 18 - February 24



Tides

Cedar Key	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24
First high	3:57 a.m.	4:40 a.m.	5:32 a.m.	6:46 a.m.	8:31 a.m.	10:28 a.m.	11:40 a.m.
First low	9:54 a.m.	10:23 a.m.	10:55 a.m.	12:19 a.m.	1:34 a.m.	3:06 a.m.	4:31 a.m.
Second high	3:53 p.m.	4:21 p.m.	4:57 p.m.	5:44 p.m.	6:50 p.m.	8:22 p.m.	9:52 p.m.
Second low	10:38 p.m.	11:22 p.m.	—	11:34 a.m.	12:35 p.m.	2:23 p.m.	4:06 p.m.

Jacksonville Beach	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24
First high	10:28 a.m.	11:06 a.m.	11:48 a.m.	12:17 a.m.	1:14 a.m.	2:22 a.m.	3:35 a.m.
First low	4:26 a.m.	5:08 a.m.	5:58 a.m.	6:56 a.m.	8:01 a.m.	9:06 a.m.	10:09 a.m.
Second high	10:46 p.m.	11:28 p.m.	—	12:38 p.m.	1:37 p.m.	2:47 p.m.	3:59 p.m.
Second low	4:38 p.m.	5:19 p.m.	6:07 p.m.	7:05 p.m.	8:10 p.m.	9:16 p.m.	10:21 p.m.

Mayport	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24
First high	10:57 a.m.	11:35 a.m.	12:00 a.m.	12:49 a.m.	1:49 a.m.	3:01 a.m.	4:16 a.m.
First low	4:23 a.m.	5:05 a.m.	5:56 a.m.	6:56 a.m.	8:03 a.m.	9:13 a.m.	10:19 a.m.
Second high	11:18 p.m.	—	12:18 p.m.	1:10 p.m.	2:14 p.m.	3:28 p.m.	4:41 p.m.
Second low	4:33 p.m.	5:15 p.m.	6:04 p.m.	7:03 p.m.	8:09 p.m.	9:19 p.m.	10:27 p.m.

St. Augustine	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 23	Feb. 24
First high	10:34 a.m.	11:12 a.m.	11:54 a.m.	12:23 a.m.	1:20 a.m.	2:28 a.m.	3:41 a.m.
First low	4:28 a.m.	5:10 a.m.	6:00 a.m.	6:58 a.m.	8:03 a.m.	9:08 a.m.	10:11 a.m.
Second high	10:52 p.m.	11:34 p.m.	—	12:44 p.m.	1:43 p.m.	2:53 p.m.	4:05 p.m.
Second low	4:40 p.m.	5:21 p.m.	6:09 p.m.	7:07 p.m.	8:12 p.m.	9:18 p.m.	10:23 p.m.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise Thursday 7:06 a.m.
 Sunset Thursday 6:19 p.m.
 Moonrise Thursday 9:09 a.m.
 Moonset Thursday 10:38 p.m.



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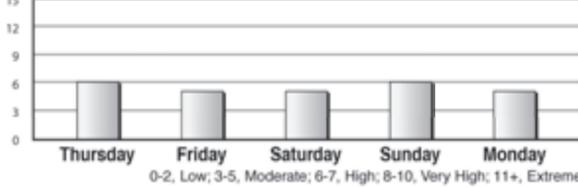
Jacksonville week ending Monday, Feb. 15.

Temperature
 High/Low for the week 67°/29°
 Normal high/low 67°/44°
 Average temperature 45.0°
 Normal average temperature 55.3°

Precipitation
 Total for the week 1.67"
 Total for the month 2.57"
 Total for the year 6.53"
 Normal for the month 1.67"
 Normal for the year 5.36"

AccuWeather.com UV Index™

Values indicate the exposure to the sun's Ultraviolet Rays. Shown are the highest values for each day.



Solunar Table

The solunar period schedule allows planning days so you will be fishing in good territory or hunting in good cover during those times. Major periods begin at the times shown and last for 1.5 to 2 hours. The minor periods are shorter.

	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Feb 18	1:28 a.m.	7:38 a.m.	1:49 p.m.	7:59 p.m.
Feb 19	2:15 a.m.	8:26 a.m.	2:37 p.m.	8:48 p.m.
Feb 20	3:04 a.m.	9:16 a.m.	3:28 p.m.	9:39 p.m.
Feb 21	3:56 a.m.	10:09 a.m.	4:21 p.m.	10:34 p.m.
Feb 22	4:50 a.m.	11:03 a.m.	5:17 p.m.	11:31 p.m.
Feb 23	5:45 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	6:14 p.m.	—
Feb 24	6:42 a.m.	12:33 a.m.	7:12 p.m.	12:57 p.m.

River Levels

Statistics are for Jacksonville through 7 a.m. Monday

	Flood stage	Monday	24-hour change
St. John's at Jacksonville	—	11.88	+0.48
St. Marks at Newport	7.0	6.90	-0.08
Aucilla at Lamont	9.0	5.06	+1.01
Santa Fe at Fort White	24.0	23.04	+0.17
Suwannee at White Springs	77.0	67.48	-0.02

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Teens caught for burglary

Looted house of guns, \$4000 cash

Three juvenile males were arrested February 10 for the daytime burglary of a residence near the home of one of them off Crews Rd. north of Glen St. Mary.

The trio, two of them brothers ages 16 and 14 from Glen, are charged with a number of counts, including armed burglary — a first-degree felony — for stealing two pistols, jewelry and tools from the residence of Steven and Connie Corbitt.

Police were called after two witnesses saw three males fleeing on foot behind the home into nearby woods about 2:00 that afternoon. Two K-9 teams from Baker Correctional prison followed the tracks on two different routes to the home of the third suspect, age 14.

Sheriff's investigator Steve Harvey said much of what the owners reported stolen was recovered either near the victim's home or that of the third boy. One of the pistols was left near the scene; the other was found at the rear of the suspect's residence.

Deputy Sgt. James Marker said one of the youths tossed a propane tank through a rear window to gain entry sometime after 1:00 pm, then let the others inside via a rear door.

The Corbitts told police several rings, a watch, an M3 player and tools were taken from various rooms inside. No value was assigned to the property.

The three suspects were brought to county jail by parents later that day, and one of the 14-year-olds confessed to the crime. The brothers at first insisted they had been at Baker County High School and knew nothing of the burglary, and they were arrested after school officials established they had indeed skipped that day.

Principal Thomas Hill recalled the brothers brought lunch at midday for another student, and told him they were ill with the flu and their mother was aware of their absence.

Sgt. Marker said the three suspects wore shoes that matched those at the scene and others along the trail followed by the dogs.

In addition to the armed burglary, the boys are charged

with felonies for grand theft and grand theft of firearms, and with misdemeanor criminal mischief for breaking the window.

In another home burglary involving firearms, this one during daylight hours on February 8, someone pried open a rear door at the residence of Mathew Tracer on Stacey Barber Rd.

The victim told Deputy Tony Norman several firearms were removed from a gun safe, another was taken from a bedroom night stand and a second safe with \$4000 cash and a watch was carted off the property.

The burglary occurred between 6:00 am-6:00 pm and Mr. Tracer also noted a laptop computer missing from a closet. The other guns were a .12-gauge shotgun, a .22-caliber rifle and revolver and a .50-caliber rifle.

Police were able to lift several latent fingerprints from the scene.

The victim tallied the loss, including the cash, at \$7685.

In other cases:

- A strong glue was used to disable a front door lock at the residence of Margaret McDonald off North First St. in Macclenny

during the day on February 8.

Deputy Robert Simpkins noted in his report there is a suspect in the vandalism — an estranged wife of Ms. McDonald's current boyfriend.

- Tires on vehicles belonging to Wanda Turner and her husband were reported damaged by roofing nails between February 7-11.

The complainant told Sgt. Market several mailboxes near her residence off Carl Brown Rd. were damaged as well, and blamed an ex-neighbor who had been involved in a past easement dispute.

- A complaint for vandalism was filed against Allison Wilson, 27, of Macclenny for damaging a rental car that had been driven to her residence off Ohio St. by her husband Tarus. Deputy Johnny Hodges noted the 2009 Dodge sustained damage to the driver's side mirror.

The vehicle had been rented by Glenetta Williams of Sanford, Fla.

- A sign in front of Hagan Ace Hardware in east Glen was damaged by several small-caliber bullets between February 9-12.

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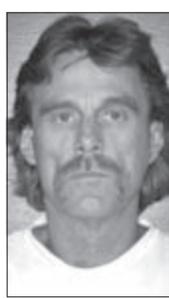
Juries convict 1; acquit 2

A six-member jury took about an hour on February 11 to convict a Bryceville man of trafficking in prescription drugs.

Two other juries last week acquitted defendants in both felony and misdemeanor cases.

Last week's trial was the second one for James Childs, 48, and he will be sentenced next Monday. He has already been sentenced by Senior Judge Elzie Sanders to a minimum/mandatory three years on the first trafficking conviction.

Mr. Childs was arrested in June of last year following the two undercover buys. Last week the jury heard testimony that the defendant sold 20 Lortabs, a prescription medication, to Deputy Mike Hauge on the parking lot of the Macclenny Walmart. The officer paid \$100 for the drugs.



James Childs

The defendant has appealed the earlier conviction on the basis of ineffective counsel from public defender George Nelson. He had intended to represent himself in the second trial, but Judge James Nilon ruled he was not competent to do so.

In other trials last week:

- Another six-member jury decided the state presented insufficient evidence that Dorian Surrency, a 16-year-old Macclenny youth being tried as an adult, was guilty of robbery with a firearm and aggravated assault with intent to commit a felony in a July, 2009 case.

Surrency, who has several other criminal cases still pending in juvenile jurisdiction, was arrested for robbing a skateboarder of \$2 in the parking lot of the Christian Fellowship Temple late on July 28.

- Kirsten Hilliard, 20, of Sanderson was acquitted in misdemeanor court of failure to report damage to a parked vehicle in another case from July, 2009.

She was accused of driving a vehicle that struck another in the parking lot of Country Federal Credit Union in Macclenny, then leaving the scene. Ms. Hilliard's defense was it was a case of mistaken identity.

A number of other defendants were sentenced by Judge Phyllis Rosier during regular criminal court on February 15:

- Mario Preston, an inmate at Baker Correctional, was given a 10-year sentence for setting fire to a mattress at the prison. The sentence is to run concurrently to a 35-year term he is already serving for a Hillsborough County murder.

Mr. Preston pleaded no contest to first-degree arson.

- Johnnie Lee Belford pleaded no contest to two counts of felony petty theft and one of burglary, and was given a year in county jail less 106 days already served.

- Cody Hodges entered a no contest plea to driving on a suspended license, possession of cocaine and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Judge Rosier ordered him on drug offender probation for 18 months and withheld adjudication on the cocaine charge.

- The judge ordered a year on probation for Christopher Jenkins in return for a plea to failure to register as a sex offender. He also will bear the cost of a GPS monitor.

- Samantha Hunter admitted to violating probation and Judge Rosier modified it to a two-year house arrest with drug offender sanctions. Ms. Hunter also cannot leave the state.

- Joel Kendrick was placed on an 18-month drug offender probation after he pleaded no contest to grand theft of a firearm. He must also undergo a month long in-patient substance abuse treatment.

- Michael Thrift admitted violating probation in two drug cases from 2007, and was sentenced to a month in jail, followed by two years on house arrest with drug offender sanctions.

- The judge reinstated a drug-offender probation for Crystal Parker, who admitted to violating, and also ordered her to do 50 hours of community service.

- Thomas Mercer made a similar admission and was ordered to undergo substance abuse evaluation and do the 50 hours.

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NEW RIVER LANDFILL

Garbage from Alachua blows away

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

The New River landfill is investigating how to respond to a recent drop in waste from its largest customer, Alachua County, that could cost the tri-county facility an estimated \$1.5 million during the next year.

Emerald Waste Services has already begun diverting garbage from unincorporated Alachua County and the City of Gainesville to the Chesser Island landfill in southern Georgia, some 70-plus miles north of the New River landfill.

During the three-day period of February 8-10, an average of 240 fewer tons of waste per day arrived from Alachua County, New River's executive director Darrell O'Neal said at the monthly meeting of the facility's board of directors February 11.

"What we need to do is, over the next four weeks, analyze this ... then decide what to do, if anything," he told the board, which consists of two county commissioners from each of New River's member counties — Baker, Bradford and Union.

He recommended tasking the landfill's engineering firm, Jones Edmunds, with evaluating the impact from the lost waste and developing possible options, like seeking additional sources of waste or adjusting tipping fees.

The board approved a roughly \$14,000 work order to do so.

Mr. O'Neal said that while the decreased volume of waste means lost revenue in the near term, it also prolongs the useful life of

“What we need to do is, over the next four weeks, analyze this... then decide what to do, if anything.”



— Darrell O'Neal
New River Executive Director

the facility by making more space available.

Emerald Waste Services, or EWS, had been bringing waste into a government-run Alachua County transfer station northeast of Gainesville, which in turn made its way to Raiford in accordance with New River's contract with Alachua County.

To save money — the transfer station's tipping fee tops \$51 a ton — the company began taking the garbage to a private transfer station it purchased from Waste Management southwest of Gainesville on Archer Road.

EWS approached New River in late January about lowering its \$32 tipping fee in exchange for not rerouting the waste someplace else.

Mr. O'Neal said he met with Bob Shires, EWS's vice president for Central Florida, and was told a proposal from Waste Management to haul the trash from the new transfer station to the Chesser Island facility for \$32.50 a ton would save EWS about \$20 per ton. Mr.

Shires reportedly wanted the \$24 per ton rate that member counties enjoy at New River.

"I told him that would be tough. That [\$24] was basically our cost," said Mr. O'Neal, adding that it doesn't account for closure funds or other long-term costs.

The landfill is required to keep more than \$8 million on hand in the event the facility must shut down immediately.

In other business that evening:

- The landfill's auditor reported results from its annual review of New River's financial records for the year ending September 31, 2009.

The audit showed that revenues remained roughly the same as the previous year while salaries and benefits rose five percent, closure expenses increased and operating costs fell. Net assets finished the year at \$1.6 million, roughly \$800,000 less than the previous year.

"You're still making money, just not as much as last year," said auditor Lora Douglas of DDF CPA Group in Orange Park.

- The board approved the purchase of a CAT skid steer for \$47,500. Assistant landfill director Perry Kent said the equipment had been rented in the past, but would be needed regularly during construction of the landfill's new Cell 6, now being permitted.

- Two additional work orders were approved for Jones Edmunds — about \$56,000 for developing a Request for Proposals on potential uses for landfill gas and another roughly \$167,000 for engineering related to construction of the new cell.

LAND PLANNING AGENCY

Okays sawmill expansion

JOEL ADDINGTON
NEWS EDITOR
reporter@bakercountypress.com

Plans to double the size of a cypress log mill north of Macclenny on the eastside of SR 121 will be considered by the Baker County Commission next month.

The expansion by Thrift Log Homes gained a positive recommendation from the Local Planning Agency [LPA] the evening of February 12, despite fears from a nearby property owner about the possibility of a more intense industrial use on the property in the future.

"We plan for the worst in planning ..." planning director Ed Preston told the LPA board while presenting Mr. Thrift's request to rezone a roughly 10-acre parcel immediately south of the mill from agriculture to industrial. "There is the possibility that the use could change to something else."

By zoning the adjacent property industrial — as the mill is classified — the county effectively opens the parcel to all the uses permitted under industrial zoning, including chemical and fertilizer manufacturing, explosive manufacturing and storage, scrap yards, warehouses and a host of other activities.

Carolyn Conway of Fernandina Beach owns the vacant tract on the west side of SR 121 across from the mill. She feared that if the property was sold in the future, it could prove harmful for her land.

"Suppose you move on and somebody puts explosive manufacturing or a junk yard there," said Ms. Conway, who is also a cousin of the applicant Jody Thrift. "They're not really desirable things to have across the street."

Ms. Conway didn't oppose expansion of the log mill but asked if there was a way to avoid the other uses down the road.

"The county has no way of preventing that from happening," said Mr. Preston.

Mr. Thrift and his father had assumed for the last 30 years the southern parcel was zoned industrial too. It wasn't until last year, when they began planning an expansion of the log mill, they found out different, he said.

"Ten acres is going to blow up just as bad as 20 [acres]," Mr. Thrift said. "[Industrial zoning] is already there."

The board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the rezoning request to county commissioners. They're expected to consider the matter March 15.

Residents: Bill Davis Rd. doesn't need more traffic

The only other request that evening came from Randy Crews,

who wanted approval to use the homestead division provision of the land development regulations.

The law permits carving off two, 2.5-acre lots or one, 5-acre lot each year for sale without paving any roads. Normally, tracts can only be divided once before subdivision regulations requiring paving to the nearest paved road.

About 110 acres of Mr. Crews holdings in the area east of CR 229 and south of I-10 meet all the requirements for homestead division, which include having certain agricultural zoning classifications, being under the same ownership for at least five years and conforming with other land development rules.

The tract is located directly south of the newly-paved Reid Stafford Road and immediately east of Bill Davis Road.

A number of Bill Davis residents opposed the request because of the impact additional traffic would have on the already troublesome roadway.

Ron Gracie's property borders Mr. Crews' land on the south. With approval for homestead division, he estimated the landowner could carve out as many as 60 lots during the next three decades.

"The county has a very hard time maintaining [Bill Davis] road," said Mr. Gracie. "Anytime we get heavy rains, the road washes out ... More traffic on that road is not something I'd like to see."

He added that granting the request would also undermine the area's agricultural zoning designation, which requires lots no smaller than 7.5 acres.

Mr. Crews said there's wasn't anything he could do about Bill Davis Road, but that he's previously helped maintain the drainage ditches and pulled drivers who've gotten stuck on the roadway.

Furthermore, Mr. Crews said he plans initially to sell lots on Reid Stafford Road, which is paved.

"It'll be 20 years until I get to Bill Davis," he said.

The board approved Mr. Crews' request unanimously as well. Mr. Preston had made the same recommendation.

County officials have been meeting periodically for more than year about further restricting the use of the homestead division provision. Many, including Mr. Preston, have said it's been used to create ad hoc subdivisions without paved roads or plans submitted to the county.

The LPA's decision, however, requires that Mr. Crews submit a preliminary site plan for county staff approval and that legal access be demonstrated for each

lot before building permits are issued.

"I'm not a huge fan of [homestead division]," said board chairman C.J. Thompson, "but we haven't changed it yet."

Also, because of a paperwork error, Mr. Preston said Mr. Crews' request should've been considered in 2009, and therefore, the LPA's approval would be retroactive and give him the ability to divide a maximum of four lots this year.



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

Thrift Log Homes property.

GOP meeting

The monthly meeting of the Baker County Republican Party will begin at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 23 at the Mathis House on the Glen St. Mary Nursery.

All local Republicans are invited to attend. For more information, call Don Marshall at 259-9668

On Dean's List

Halie N. White of Glen St. Mary was named to the Dean's List at Georgia Southern University for the fall semester.

Honor students on the list must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average with a minimum 12-hour course load.

Ms. White is a sophomore majoring in biology.

Chicken dinners

There will be a benefit dinner to help with expenses for cancer patient Hilda Manning on Friday, February 26 at Christian Fellowship Temple at the fellowship hall.

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Arrest for beating pregnant girlfriend

A Jacksonville man was arrested the evening of February 13 for beating his pregnant girlfriend in the back seat of a car parked in the Walmart parking lot. A witness alerted police after confronting Donald Newton, 23, when he exited the store and saw the boyfriend atop Erin King, 22, also of Jacksonville. Jason Dubé told Deputy Koty Crews that Mr. Newton was repeatedly punching the girlfriend and ceased doing so when he said he was calling police. Mr. Newton then drove to the nearby Murphy Oil station where he was questioned by the officer and arrested. Deputy Crews also found two baggies of marijuana in the vehicle and also charged Mr. Newton with misdemeanor possession. Ms. King told the officer she is three months pregnant and the boyfriend was aware of that fact. She said he held her down and repeatedly struck her with fists

about her torso instead of her face so the punches would not leave marks. She also said she is frightened of what the boyfriend will do to her and initially was reluctant to discuss the incident. Mr. Newton was booked at county jail for aggravated battery because of the girlfriend's pregnancy. In other incidents the past week: • Phillip Lane, 57, was charged with battery on Samantha Robinson, 30, at a residence she rents from him off Jack Dowling Circle in north Baker County. Police were called to the address about 4:30 the afternoon of February 10 after Mr. Lane allegedly struck Ms. Robinson in the face during an argument that started when she returned to the residence and learned he had called her daughter a scurrilous name. When Deputy Matt Sigers

went to question the suspect, he noted that Mr. Lane was intoxicated and seated in a chair with a 12-inch kitchen knife positioned on the floor between his feet. The assailant was also charged with disorderly intoxication, and the Department of Children and Families was notified of the incident because Ms. Robinson's two children were present, one of whom backed up her version of events. The other one told Deputy Sigers he only heard commotion. • Criminal complaints for aggravated assault and battery were filed against an estranged Macclenny couple following a confrontation off MLK Drive the afternoon of Valentine's Day. Both Joseph Hollings, 42, and Romona Robertson, 22, accused each other of brandishing knives during an argument about 1:00 pm. Ms. Robertson sold Deputy Jason Bryan the ex-boyfriend held a knife to her throat, threat-

ened her with a baseball bat and struck her with a fishing pole. Mr. Hollings told the officer later the ex-girlfriend injured his leg when she drove a car at him, and attempted to stab him with a pocket knife. He claims he struck Ms. Robertson with the pole in self-defense. • Criminal complaints for simple battery were filed with the state attorney's office following two incidents involving patients at Northeast Florida State Hospital. In the first, a 30-year-old male is accused of striking another male patient, age 29, in the face during an argument over property. It was reported the afternoon of February 8. About midday on February 13, a 25-year-old female patient accused another female, age 45, of attacking her and causing deep scratches on her back during a confrontation.

County's health rank feared near bottom

Nationwide county health rankings — to be released February 17 at a briefing in Washington, D.C. — will allow anyone, for the first time, to look at how healthy their county is, see what factors affect their health and compare their county to others within their state. It's expected that Baker County will rank 60th in health outcomes, making it one of the most unhealthy of Florida's 67 counties, according to Dawn Emerick of the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida. A collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, the rankings are a new way for public health and community leaders to measure the health of every county in every state in the nation so they can see how well they are doing and where they need to improve, states a press release from the planning council.

and ways to mobilize communities to overcome health barriers and help make all counties healthier places to live, learn, work and play. The rankings will be unveiled at 9:30 am February 17 in Washington, D.C., but the briefing will broadcast live online. Those interested can join Patrick Remington, associate dean for public health at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, for a live question-and-answer event on Twitter from 2:00 — 3:00 p.m. To join, follow the @RWJF_publichealth Twitter feed and use the hashtag #healthrankings in any tweets. A new county health rankings Web site will be available that day as well.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
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Intoxicated man attempting to deflate tires

Police arrested a number of persons the past week for disorderly intoxication, including a Jacksonville man spotted attempting to let the air out of a tire on his ex-girlfriend's vehicle. Lt. Billy Miller of the sheriff's department said he was on patrol about midnight February 14 near the Country Club Lounge on South 6th in Macclenny when he spotted Lance Rewis, 30, kneeling by the side of a vehicle in the parking lot. As he approached, the officer said he saw Mr. Rewis using a pocket knife to depress the valve stem of a rear tire on a vehicle belonging to Shannon Seaman of Macclenny. She was in the lounge at the time. It was also learned that Mr. Rewis had earlier been banned by court order from lounge property, so a charge of trespass was added when he was taken to county jail. Lt. Miller said the suspect had trouble maintaining balance and at one point fell over

onto the ground. In other cases: • Earl Griffis, 54, of Jacksonville was arrested after Deputy Robert Simpkins found him walking in the middle of North Boulevard about 9:45 the evening of February 9. Mr. Griffin, who described himself as a traveling singer/songwriter, appeared disoriented when questioned and asked the deputy for a ride to a residence in that neighborhood where he could spend the night. The woman at the indicated address said she did not know Mr. Griffin. • Michael Jewell, 18, of Sanderson was arrested after briefly running from Deputy Johnny Hodges along the CSX tracks east of MLK Blvd. in Macclenny about 11:00 pm on February 12. The officer said he was flagged down by patrons of the nearby Mac's Liquors and saw that Mr. Jewell was staggering in and out of traffic on MLK.

The suspect had a bloody face and clothing, and told the officer he had been in a fight. He was also charged with resisting police without violence. • Dorothy Exline, 36, of Sanderson was taken to jail late on February 8 for driving on a license with eight prior suspensions. Deputy Simpkins said he stopped Ms. Exline near US 90 and Lowder in west Macclenny after noting the tag light on her 2005 Chevrolet was out. Police arrested three persons the past week on outstanding criminal warrants: • Nikolas Porfiradis, 54, of Macclenny on February 8 for contempt of court in Clay County; • Marlon McNeill, 25, of Jacksonville on February 13 for failure to pay child support in Duval County; • Shawn Eiserman, 21, of Macclenny on February 10 for violating a court order in Nassau County.

Mr. Barnes awarded Legion of Honor

«From page 1
and negotiated with the woman for a chicken. "Well, sir, he got that chicken," said Mr. Barnes. "She even cooked it for him and he brought it back to camp for us to share. I'll never forget that." **Birthday in a bunker**
June 22, 1944
The Americans steadily made their way deeper into the French countryside, sometimes camping in tents, sometimes sheltered in underground bunkers. During times when they were moving out, Mr. Barnes kept close to his "tent buddy." Soldiers formed into two-man units and each carried half of a tent. To set up camp, they had to put two tent halves together. Elgin Barnes turned nineteen during his brief time in France. As he remembers, there were two other soldiers who also had birthdays within a day or so of his. They couldn't do anything to celebrate because any unusual activity would have drawn unwanted attention to their camp. One soldier, however, wouldn't let the date go by without recognition. He stuck his head up out of a bunker long enough to shout "Happy Birthday, Barnes!" then quickly drew it back in again. The memory of that shouted birthday greeting haunts Mr. Barnes. "I never saw that soldier again," he said.

ported. The Jeep sped over rough terrain, finally coming to stop at a corn field. On tables set up in the field under the open sky, surgeons worked on the injured soldiers. Sergeant Lutz was hurt the worst — the mortar took out his kidney. Snodgrass received a serious injury to one of his arms, but his concern was for his buddies. He mustered his courage and declared, "If you two can stand what you got, then I can stand what I got," Mr. Barnes recalled. As he lay on the table in the cornfield, he assessed his condition and hoped for the best. The odd thing was the lack of pain. He later learned that the concussion he sustained may have temporarily blocked out his ability to feel pain. "I could look down into my own chest and see my lungs when I breathed," Mr. Barnes said. "I remember at some point learning that the surgeon working on me was from, of all places, Jacksonville. I don't remember his name." Mr. Barnes would recover. Lutz and Snodgrass did not survive. From the cornfield, Mr. Barnes was transported to a medical hospital ship headed for England.

He doesn't recall much about the trip, except for one vivid memory. "When they carried the injured soldiers onboard, I remember this huge black man who came down to get me," said Mr. Barnes. "He was so strong and he handled me so gently. He cradled me in his massive arms like I was a baby and carried me into the ship." **The next six months and the next 65 years**
He convalesced in England for six months, then was flown to Washington state. Later, he would receive a Purple Heart, the Medal of Good Conduct and the World War II Victory Medal. He returned to Macclenny where a young girl named Dorothy Mobley spied him eating a

hamburger one day at The Spot, a popular eating place. "I thought 'Who is that?'" she recalls. "I looked at him and my heart went pound, pound, pound!" The couple married and had four children. Mr. Barnes worked in civil service as a mechanic and as an inspector at Cecil Field. He went on to become a notable genealogist, working as a volunteer with the Baker County Historical Society and was a major contributor to the documentation of local cemetery records. He would win county and state awards for his historical preservation work. Although he has never seen it, he has been told that a war monument was erected on the very spot where he was injured in France.

The village of La Haye
June 11, 1944
Five days after landing on Omaha Beach, the Americans were moving on foot through the small village of La Haye. Sergeant Lutz, one of the survivors of the 314th Regiment, was leading some of the men. He called a halt to their advance and they waited to receive further instructions. Mr. Barnes was standing beside a church with Sergeant Lutz and Sergeant Snodgrass, the other survivor of their regiment. Suddenly, without warning, a German mortar exploded in a nearby hedgerow. The walls of the church were destroyed and all three men received life-threatening injuries. In the chaos that followed, a Jeep outfitted as an emergency ambulance arrived on the scene. Injured men were strapped across the hood, onto fenders, on wood planks — anywhere and anyway they could be trans-

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Annie Mae Thrift reaches 100 years!

Celebrates on Feb. 15

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES

features@bakercountypress.com

Annie Mae Thrift, a long time resident of Wells Nursing Home in Macclenny, turned 100 years young February 15.

She was born in Baker County in 1910 and has lived at Wells for the past 10 years.

The facility hosted a birthday celebration for Ms. Thrift with a Valentine's Day theme. It was attended by nearly 70 people, including residents, staff, friends and family.

During the afternoon, a steady stream of visitors bearing cards, gifts and flowers, lined up to greet Ms. Thrift and wish her happy birthday.

Looking very pleased, the honoree wore a lovely lavender sweater for the occasion festooned with a pink rose corsage.

Daniel Gibbs provided some musical entertainment by playing a beautiful version of Happy Birthday on the piano as well other lively tunes.

There were lots of hugs and kisses as well as cake, cake and more cake. Two large birthday cakes covered with brightly colored icing were on display. Ms. Thrift loves cake, especially pound cake, but doesn't care for frosting.

In addition to her beautifully decorated birthday cakes, several of the staff baked a variety of frosting-free cakes just for the birthday girl which included plain pound cake as well as lemon and poppy seed.

There were also delicious sandwiches and broiled bacon-wrapped water chestnut hor'd oeuvres served for guests.

Wells staff members report that Ms. Thrift is a wonderful resident and has many friends. Her memory is sharp and she can easily recall things from two days before to decades ago.

Her favorite thing to do is people watch as folks come and go throughout the facility during



Ronald Mann with Annie at her 100th birthday party.

PHOTO BY KELLEY LANNIGAN

the day. She is also known for her sense of humor.

One guest, Ronald Mann, who is over six feet tall, had to get down on his knees to tell Ms. Thrift good-bye when he got ready to leave her party.

"It was so good to see you and

this is a wonderful party, but I've got to be going now," he told her.

"You mean you're leaving already?" she asked, pretending to be shocked.

"Yes, I've got to go tend to my cows. They need feeding," he told her.

Ms. Thrift, who had a devilish twinkle in her eye, replied: "Oh, pshaw! I don't believe that. You aren't doing any work. I think you're just going home to relax!"



'Heart' event raises \$8000

The Baker County Republican Women's annual Heart to Heart dinner and auction on February 14 raised \$8000. Money raised during the event usually goes to a charitable organization, but this year the funds will be used to help offset medical expenses for a liver transplant recently received by former Baker County resident Maggie Shook. Greg Gaines, a former DJ with WQIK in Jacksonville, whose own son previously underwent a liver transplant, spoke on the importance of organ donation. Wanda Walker, a friend of the Shook family, presented a talk entitled "Maggie's Miracle". A highlight of the auction was a pair of tickets to a concert by Harry Connick Jr. Gentleman Josie Davis furnished music entertainment, Michael Walker served as auctioneer and Unique Floral designed the stage. From Left: Greg Gaines, Karen Shook, Maggie Shook, Joey Shook and Wanda Walker.



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Extension workshops

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Baker County Extension Service

The Baker County Extension Service will be offering the following programs and events in January. To register for these programs or for more information call 259-3520. You may also go to our website at <http://baker.ifas.ufl.edu>. All programs will be held at the Baker County Agricultural Center unless indicated otherwise.

• **Edible Landscaping** – February 23 from 5:30-6:30 pm.

Learn which fruit and vegetable varieties can be grown in the landscape to create a garden with good taste! Participants will receive free materials and edible flowers to plant at home. Register by Friday, February 19.

• **Florida Organic Growers Blueberry Farm Tour** – February 24 beginning at 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Farmers are invited to learn about organic production, marketing, regulations and certification during a free tour of a 9-acre blueberry farm in White Springs. To learn more contact FOG at 352-377-6345, email foginfo@foginfo.org; or visit www.foginfo.org/epa.

• **Lawn Care Workshop** – March 15 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

Learn techniques for maintaining a healthy lawn all year long. Materials and refreshments provided. Cost is \$2 per person. Register by Friday, March 12.

• **Rain Barrel Workshop** – March 20 from 10:00 to 11:00 am.

Celebrate the first day of spring by installing a rain barrel that will save the rain for your plants and save you money! Learn how to build, install, and maintain a functional rain barrel for immediate use. All materials are provided for this "make and take" rain barrel workshop. Already have your own barrel? Just

call to register and join the class for free!

Cost: \$35 per barrel. Register by Friday, March 5.

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SOUTH SIXTH STREET, MACCLENNY

First cover ready for student newspaper

KELLEY LANNIGAN
FEATURES
features@bakercountypress.com

The first issue of PawPrints, a newspaper for students PreK to fifth grade, is still in the planning stages, but the publication's first cover is definitely ready to go.

Stetson Keene, a second grade student at Westside Elementary submitted the winning design in a contest held last month.

"I couldn't believe his design won, out of all the participating schools," said his mother, Tammie Gray.

While looking for ideas, Stetson said he thought of the emblem for Baker County.

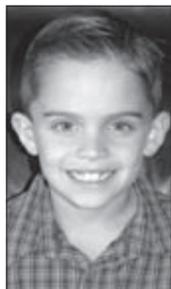
"I really liked it when I saw it," he said.

He decided to use the logo idea but change it. Since the newspaper was to be all about the children in Baker schools, he added a ring of child-like figures around the outside of the emblem. The figures of boys and girls are all different. They stand side by side holding hands.

Last fall, Jeannie Baskin, whose three children attend Baker County schools, came up with

the idea for a newspaper for kids which would be written by them also.

"I had been involved with a similar project in Duval County once before and it was very rewarding. I thought



Stetson Keene

something like it might be a good thing for Baker County's kids," she said.

She approached school superintendent Sherrie Raulerson with her project, who according to Ms. Baskin, loved it. Ms. Raulerson gave her the green light to go ahead with coordinating the paper.

"It is to be a newspaper targeted toward students Pre-K through fifth

PawPrint News and students will submit their own news, articles and artwork. The first issue is being planned and will be printed as soon as funding can be secured.

"Like all things, it takes money and we're working on raising some right now," said Ms. Baskin.

"I'm so proud of Stetson," said his mom. "I'm tickled to death my boy's design won. I really hope the funding for the paper can be raised soon so they can start printing it."

As for Stetson, he enjoyed creating the artwork, but doesn't have plans to become a commercial artist.

"I want to be a driver in the Monster Truck Show when I grow up," he said. "Or maybe a policeman."



grade," said Ms. Baskin. "The content will be produced by the kids, for the kids."

The newspaper's name will be



12th place in BBQ meet

The Harvey Creek BBQ Cooking Team finished 12th overall of 28 teams on February 13 in the Florida Boots and BBQ Backyard cooking competition at the Bradford County fairgrounds in Starke. The team consists of (from left) Baker County residents James Brownlee, Steve Harvey, Scott Norman, Ronnie and Brad Harvey. Another Baker County team, The Slab, finished 20th; it is comprised of Gerald Gonzalez, Tim Nunn and Mike Fish, and took a first place in the dessert category with a pound cake prepared by Pat Fish. The Harvey Creek team has been in the catering and competition slow wood cooking field three years.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STACIE HARVEY

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BCHS honor roll...

BAKER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
Principal's List - 2nd Nine Weeks

NINTH GRADE: Sarah Brookens, Haley Dopson, Clayton Lyons, Reagan McKendree, Emily Meadows, Christopher Sellers, Kaylan Stafford, Brooke Taylor

TENTH GRADE: Tiffany Braddy, Spencer Brunette, Colton Butcher, Teddy Callihan, Matthew Cantrell, Garrett Combs, Kathryn Drawdy, Shirley Duran, Darius Fernandez, Derica Harvey, Sarah Jackson, Kayla Jeffres, Dillon Jones, Austen King, Amber Martin, Heather McNutt, Marissa Miller, Samuel Murphy, Jordan, Perry-Ruiz, Kallie Raulerson, Logan Raulerson, Mackenzie Rohde, Thomas Sirk, Sarah Whitehead

ELEVENTH GRADE: Tyler Beach, Macy Burnsed, Michael Burnsed, Winchee Coleman, Rebekah Combs, Chelsea Crews, Kari Crumme, Sarah Dugger, Ronald Dunn, Emily Gibbs, Jordan Hand, Blake Harrington, Taylor Hartley, Bradley Mareth, Willie Myers, Melissa Rambo, Daniel Ratliff, Rebecca Rhynehardt, Alexandra Rohde, Timothy Stewart, Ashleigh Thick, Cameron Thomas, Sean Ward, Amanda Yarbrough

TWELFTH GRADE: Nichole Berry, Sara Buettgen, Stephen Butler, Ashley Cole, Danielle Cole, Iesha Coleman, Margaret Cook, Justin L. Davis, Justin R. Davis, Sarah M. Davis, Cheyenne Dilbeck, Megan Dolan, Alexander Evdokimov, Ryan Griffis, Katie Hignens, Ashley Holton, Brittany Homitz, Joshua Howard, Jason Hurst, Kaylann Long, Russell McDermitt, Meagan McDonald, Ginger Nelson, Jennifer Nguyen, Meagan Osteen, Brandon Robertson, Cheyenne Seiler, Haley Thomas, Mariah Trosper, Carissa Ward, Robert Yonn

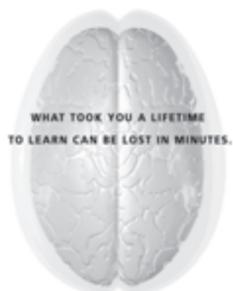
Honor Roll - 2nd Nine Weeks

NINTH GRADE: Michaela Ariail, David Baker, Johnny Baxter, Patrick Berry, Mikayla Bosley, Rachel Chambers, Imari Clark, Zachary Collins, Lauren Courson, Bethanie Crews, James Crews, Crystal Crosby, Korie Crumme, Bronson Davis, Catherine Davis, Jessica H. Davis, Katherine Demers, Hayley Dodd, Kamala Dyal, Alexis Ellis, Brenton Evett, Erin Gaylord, Mariah Givens, Rhondasia Givens, Stephanie Gross, Sarah Harrell, Mary Hart, Brianna Henderson, Bridget Higginbotham, Derrick Hoatlin, Jacqueline Hollings, Amberly Lewis, David Long, Dillon Mann, Colin Moore, Leslee Moorman, Brittany Namwises, Matthew Neidermeier, Baleigh Nipper, Devin Norman, Rachel Oyinoeye, Anna Pass, Jalenia Plummer, Corlis Raulerson, Mercedes Rhoden, Benny Richardson, Caleb Rodgers, Amber Shumate, Autumn Smith, Keifer Starn, Madison Stephens, Jayson Steven, Erick Stoutamire, Christina Taylor, Hagan Taylor, Jonathan Walsh, Ashley Wheeler, Jasmine Wilcox, Ethan Wilkerson, Markie Wilkerson, Jaden Williams, Brandon Yancey, Ashley Zawolik

TENTH GRADE: James Addison, Lacie Alford, Hailey Baldwin, Marcus Barnes, Kimberly Barton, Megan Bennett, Johnathan Boudreau, Kaitlyn Branch, Travis Brandt, John Burnsed, Priscilla Carter, Dillon Cohen, Brandon Cole, Kayla Conn, Brandon Davenport, Robert dietz, Shelby Driggers, Lindsay Drury, Leon Evans, Faith Finley, Mark Flores, Catherine Frazee, Niesha Givens, Brianna Gray, Whitney Harvey, Chantelle Holmes, Autumn Jackson, Savannah Jones, Joseph Keen, Jack Kirkland, Kyle Lauramore, William Lauramore, Marie Martinez, Emilee McGlothlin, Tyler Mobley, Dalton Nipper, Robert Norris, Victoria Paulson, Cody Reeves, Ty Rowe, Kasey Russell, Matthew Sawyer, Charles Simpson, Kendrick Singleton, Brandon Smith, Caitlyn Smith, Hunter Sullivan, Richard Sharpe, Chelsea Thompson, Taylor Thompson, Jacob Watkins, Adam Williams, April Williams

ELEVENTH GRADE: Kayla Adams, Devin Alford, Oliver Anderson, Rashard Belford, Brooklyn Bennett, Kasie Carter, William Crawford, Cody L. Crews, Cheyanne Curl, Brendan Diperna, Kellie Dixon, Robert dyer, Rachel Farnesi, Billy Folsom, Elizabeth Frey, Lily Griffiths, Ashley Guelztow, Ashley Harris, Desiire Harris, Ellie Helms, Tiffani Hogan, Kathryn Hutcheson, Alicia Jackson, Kara James, Nathan Johnson, Ashlyn Kerce, Erin Kirkland, Brittany Lawson, Damon Lee, Saige McCullough, William Melcolm, Charles Miller, Nicholas Mobley, Tyler Overstreet, Devon Paige, Jessica Poole, Hampton Raulerson, Shakira Reed, Jessica Richardson, Dalton Roberts, Nicole Ruise, Chelsey Sampley, Kentrell Sampson, William Smith, Rachael Sorrells, Dorian Surrency, Haley Taylor, Jordan Taylor, Melissa Tillman, Catherine Valdes, Leah Wheeler, Adrienne Yonn

TWELFTH GRADE: Samuel Adams, Shelby Albino, Steven Alexander, Jessica Atcheson, Milton Baker, Taylor Baughman, Justin Beck, Brittany Bell, Ashley Blonder, Harley Boatz, Tara Brooks, Ashley Bryant, Jessica Buhler, Trista Burnham, Ashley Burns, Brendon Butler, Brook Byrnes, Lindsey Cannon, Kameron Carter, Austin Clark, Jamius Colston, Rayshel Cooley, Elizabeth Creekmore, Casey Crews, Jessica L. Davis, Noah Davis, Rachel Davis, Joseph Dolby, Kellie Dopson, Klate Duval, Michael Farr, Shawn Farrell, Kara Harper, Kari Harris, Clayton Horne, Jeffrey Johnson, Gary Kreiser, Timothy Lumpkin, Robert Martin, Carissa Mathews, Jessica McCann, William Miller, Russell Moody, Christopher Morris, Travis Oswald, Kayla Owens, Caroline Rambo, Cassandra Register, Cortney Rhoden, Michael Richmond, Kristina Rift, Robert Riggs, Corey Scott, Mark Sheppard, Krista Smith, Tiffany Smith, Kiley Stewart, Noura Tber, Haley Thigpen, Katherine Thompson, Delaney Walker, Alexis Washington, Cody Wheeler, Jocham Williams, Tiese Williams, Shelby Witt, Kriston Zeigler



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OBITUARIES

CHURCH AND OBITUARY NOTICE INFORMATION

Obituaries must be submitted in a timely fashion and have a local connection. Pictures are printed with obituaries free of charge. The newspaper reserves the right to publish photos based on quality. It is requested that all news items be typed or emailed to insure accuracy in print.

CONTACT US

By phone at 904.259.2400 or by fax at 904.259.6502. You can stop by our office located at 104 S. Fifth Street, Macclenny, FL or mail your submission to PO Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063. We are available online at www.bakercountypress.com

Roy Couey, 92, loved the Gators

Roy Leo Couey, 92, of Olustee died Friday, February 12, 2010 at the Health Center of Lake City following a brief illness. He was born on September 1, 1917 in Fort White and moved to Olustee at a very young age. It was in Olustee that he met his soul mate for life, LaVerne Dyess. They were married and made Olustee their home until their deaths.

He was the son of Champion Clay Couey and Dessie Cason Couey of Fort White, and was preceded in death by his beloved wife and her mother Hattie Green Dyess Galphin.

Mr. Couey worked in the construction industry his entire life and was actively still working part-time well into his 80's. He was a carpenter for many years and was well noted as one of the best finish carpenters in the area.

He later was superintendent for various construction companies in north Florida, including Richard Walker Construction company in Nassau County. One of his last employers was his good friend Jerry Wood of Lake City. One of Roy Couey's hobbies was his work. As a carpenter or a superintendent, Roy seemed to be most alive.

While his wife LaVerne was still alive, Roy loved to travel with her. They would either go for a Sunday afternoon drive in north Florida or short trips to the north Georgia or North Carolina mountains.

Mr. Couey loved his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and they all in return loved him. He loved the University of Florida Gators and was an active season ticket holder for 30 years. This past season, at age 92, he was in his seat in the south end zone to see the Gators beat Florida State.

Survivors include sons Keith Edward (Adelaide) Couey and Dyess Roy (Linda) Couey, both of Lake City; brothers Henry Couey of Bartow, FL, Paul Douberly of Palm Bay and Harold Douberly of Brandenton; one aunt; four grandsons; one granddaughter; five great-grandchildren.

The graveside funeral service was held at 1:00 pm on February 16 at the Corinth Cemetery north of Lake City with Rev. Billy Young officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Corinth Cemetery Association in Lake City.

Guerry Funeral Home of Lake City was in charge of arrangements.

Albert Cox Sr., 64, of Macclenny

Albert Cox Sr., 64, of Macclenny died Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital in Macclenny following a brief illness. He was born in Lake City and had resided in Macclenny the rest of his life.



Albert Cox

He was the son of the late Joe Cox and Alma Mercer Cox and was preceded in death by sisters Margie Geiger and Betty Jean Raulerson.

Mr. Cox was employed as a truck driver most of his life and loved hunting. Most of all, he was a loving husband and father who loved spending time with his family. He attended New Hope Church of Baker County.

Survivors include his loving wife of 46 years, Kerrell Laura-more Cox of Macclenny; daughters Vickie (Charlie) Burnham and Kathy (John) Klotz, both of Macclenny, and Amy (Shane) Conner of Glen St. Mary; son Albert (Julie) Cox Jr., of Macclenny; sisters Doris (Wayne) Deese of Macclenny, Shirley (Buck) Nelson of Sanderson and Marie (Tommy) Barnes of Altha, GA; brother Frank "Buddy" (Barbara) Cox of Sanderson; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held February 13 at 2:00 pm at his church with Rev. J.C. Laura-more officiating, assisted by Rev. Boc McKenzie. Interment followed at Turner Cemetery in Baker County. Guerry Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

In Loving Memory Of Gracey Faith Crews, Daughter of Tommy and Tracey Crews 2/17/2005 - 3/20/2005

We sure miss you, but heaven's sweeter with you there. But thru God's "Grace" and by His "Faith" we shall see you again some glad day. You will always be missed, but never forgotten. Happy 5th Birthday!

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS,
DADDY, MAMA AND TUCKER

Laura Davis, 50, a homemaker

Laura Ann Davis, 50, of Taylor died Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at Shands Jacksonville following a brief illness. She had resided in Baker County all her life and was a homemaker who attended Dinkins N.C. Methodist Church in Sanderson. She was preceded in death by father Willie Eldred Combs.

Survivors include husband Roger L. Davis of Taylor; daughter Amanda Ann (Chuck) Yale of Taylor; brothers Willie Lee (Jenny) Combs of Lake City and Kyle Anthony Davis of Taylor; mother Elizabeth Combs of Taylor; sisters Janice Davis and Sue (Fred) Harris, both of Taylor; brothers Craig (Louise) Combs and Randy Combs, both of Taylor; two grandchildren.

The funeral service was held February 15 at 2:00 pm at Taylor Church with Rev. Tim Alford officiating. Interment followed at Taylor Cemetery. Guerry Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Bernice Ellison, 90, of Baldwin

Bernice G. Ellison, 90, of Baldwin died February 11, 2010. Born in Macclenny, she was a resident of Baldwin most of her life and a member of Grace Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by husband Leslie Ellison; daughter Shirley Jean Ellison.

Survivors include sons Leroy (Janice) Ellison of Baldwin and Jimmy (Diane) Ellison of Jacksonville; brother Gene (Katherine) Smith of Macclenny; sisters Mary (Randall) McKendree of Callahan and Vera (Neil) Melton of Jacksonville; sister-in-laws Laura Mae Smith of Jacksonville and Hazel Smith of Macclenny; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at 11:00 am on February 13 at Grace Baptist Church in Baldwin with Revs. Gene Burnsed and Dewayne Jowers officiating. Interment followed at Brandy Branch Cemetery. Giddens-Reed Funeral Home in Baldwin was in charge of arrangements.

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\$6.00 cash/check
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Harold Kirgan, Army veteran

Harold Edward Kirgan, 63, of Macclenny died Tuesday, January 26, 2010 following a brief illness. He was born in Vevay, Indiana to the late Roger and Mary Coomer Kirgan and was a veteran of the Army.

Mr. Kirgan will be missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by parents; brothers Willie, Cecil and Roy Kirgan; sister Francis Kirgan.

Mr. Kirgan is survived by long time companion Juanita Rhoden Crews; nephews Scott and Kirk Kirgan; great-nephew William Kirgan.

The funeral service for Mr. Kirgan was held February 9, 2010 at 2:00 pm at the Jacksonville National Cemetery with military honors with Rev. Jim Cox officiating. Guerry Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

New Hope Church, Inc.
23-A to Lauramore Rd. & Fairgrounds Rd.
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Children's Church 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Services 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
 Pastor J. C. Lauramore welcomes all

Macclenny Church of God
Jesus: The Way, The Truth and The Life
 Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 A.M. Wed. Eve. Worship 7:30 P.M.
Pastor Rev. Shannon Conner
North 6th Street - Macclenny • 259-3500

St. James Episcopal Church
Minnesota Ave. & 5th Street
Macclenny
Sunday Worship
10:30 am
Lou Towson, Vicar •• 259-9198

Come and magnify the Lord and worship with us
Glen Friendship Tabernacle
 Clinton Ave. • Glen St. Mary • Home: 259-3982 • Church: 259-6521

WJXR Radio Service Sunday 8:30 am
Morning Worship Service 10:30 am
Children's Church 11:30 am
Evangelistic 6:00 pm
Bible Study (Wed.) 7:30 pm
 Rev. Albert Starling • www.myspace.com/glenfriendshiptabernacle

DR. RANDY WILLIAMS
SENIOR PASTOR
 www.fbcgsm.com
9846 GEORGE TABER BLVD.
(904) 259-6977
 Sunday School 9:45a.m. • Morning Worship 11:00a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00p.m. • Wednesday Ministries 6:00p.m.

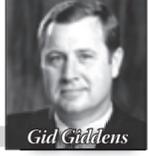
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP TEMPLE
 
 Senior Pastor David Thomas 259-4940 Associate Pastor Tim Thomas 259-4575
 Independent Pentecostal Church
 Seventh St. & Ohio Ave., Macclenny
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night Service 7:00 pm
Radio WJXR 92.1 Sunday 9:15 am
Youth Programs
 Sunday School 10:00 am
 Common Ground - Sunday 11:00 am
 Common Ground - Wed. (Teens) 7:00 pm
 God Kids - Sunday 11:00 am
 God Kids - Wednesday 7:00 pm

www.christianfellowshiptemple.com

MACCLENNY CHURCH OF CHRIST
 573 S. 5th St. 259-6059
 Sunday Bible Study 9:45 am
 Fellowship 10:30 am - 11:00 am
 Worship Services 11:00 am
 Wed. Bible Study 7:30 pm
Minister Sam E. Kitching

Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church
 CR 127 N., Sanderson, FL
 Sunday School 10:00 am
 Morning Worship 11:00 am
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
 Wed. Evening Prayer Serv. 7:30 pm
Pastor: Oral E. Lyons

DINKINS NEW CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH
 CR 127 N. of Sanderson
 Sunday School 10:00 am
 Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
 Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
 Wed. Night Service 7:30 pm
 Pastor Allen Crews
 Assistant Pastor Timothy Alford
 Youth Pastor Brian Poole


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New Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church!
 Late in 2009, Mike Ramondetta, (B.A., M.Min.), was voted in as the new Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church located on County Road 23A here in Macclenny. Pastor Ramondetta comes to build on Emmanuel's rich history of over 30 years. A special "installation service" was conducted at the church in October of last year by Dr. Charles Shoemaker, President of Trinity Baptist College in Jacksonville.
 Pastor Mike with his wife, Emily, and daughters, Michaela and Sophia, are very excited and thrilled to be at Emmanuel. The new pastor is excited about seeing the Lord work in the congregation and community. He feels the future of Emmanuel is a bright one!
 If you do not have a church home currently Pastor Ramondetta extends to you a personal invitation to come and experience God with Emmanuel Baptist Church this Sunday. Their service times are: Sunday school for all ages: 10:00 a.m.; Sunday morning service: 11:00 a.m.; Sunday evening service: 6:00 p.m.; and Wednesday evening service: 7:00 p.m.

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The Road to Calvary
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 Glen St. Mary
 Rev. Tommy & Doris Anderson
 Bro. Edward McDonald, Co-Pastor
Phone: 904-259-2213
 Sunday School: 10:00 am
 Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am
 Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
 Wednesday Night 7:30 pm

Welcome First Baptist Church of Sanderson
 CR 229 S., Sanderson FL
 Sunday School 10:00 am
 Sun. Morning Worship . 11:00 am
 Sun. Evening Worship . . 6:00 pm
 Wed. Eve. Bible Study . . 7:00 pm
 Pastor Bob Christmas
 http://www.fbcfirstsanderson.org

Mt. Zion N.C. Methodist Church
 121 North † 259-4461
 Macclenny, FL
Pastor Tim Cheshire
 Sunday School 9:45 am
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm
 Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 pm

 Jesus answered, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5

Calvary Baptist Church
Sunday School 10:00 am
Preaching Service 11:00 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
523 North Boulevard W.
 Four blocks north of Hwy. 90 in Macclenny
Pastor Donnie E. Williams •• 259-4529

Rev. McDonald, 81, of Macclenny

Rev. Edward Simon McDonald, 81, of Macclenny died February 14, 2010 at his home. He was born in Albany, Georgia to Agnew H. McDonald and Mattie Mae Mathis McDonald on December 22, 1928.

Rev. McDonald was a resident of Baker County most of his life and a member of Road of Calvary Church. He retired in 1992 after 41 years of service as a foreman at Blair's Nursery. He loved fishing, hunting and was devoted to the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was predeceased by siblings Noel Lee McDonald, Curtis Eugene McDonald, Angus Mae McDonald and Laura Lou Sparkman.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Geraldine Howard McDonald; children Stanley and Elaine McDonald and Michelle and Jerry Thomas, both of Macclenny, Sharon and L.E. Combs of Sanderson; siblings Agnew H. McDonald, Sherry L. McDonald, Mattie Ruth Pringle, Dora Bell Hinson, Pauline Pearce McGinnes, Alice Lloyd, Lois Burnhan, Geraldine McDonald Combs; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren:

The funeral service was held February 17 at 2:00 pm at Souls Harbor Church of God in Glen St. Mary with pastors James Scott and Tommy Anderson officiating. Interment followed at Macedonia Cemetery. Ferreira Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.



Edward McDonald

Ralph Perkins, dies February 3

Ralph Perkins, 59, of Sanderson died February 3, 2010 at Macclenny Nursing and Rehab after an extended illness. He was born October 15, 1950, the son of the late Willie Perkins and Luize Adiman.

On October 19, 1973 he married the late Effie G. Perkins and together they had one son, Ralph Perkins Jr., who preceded them both in death. Ralph lived and went to public school in Baker County. He worked at Ameristeel for 25 years until his retirement.

Survivors include daughters Evelyn Blue and Christine Givens, both of Sanderson; son Charles Evans of Jacksonville; sisters Margie Perkins of Sanderson and Luvice Owens of Delaware; brothers Paul Perkins of Baldwin, Elton Perkins and Joseph Owens of Delaware; numerous sisters- and brothers-in-law; two aunts; five granddaughters; one great-granddaughter.

The funeral service for Mr. Perkins was February 6 at Faith Bible Church in Sanderson with Pastor Videll W. Williams officiating. Interment followed at Quitman Cemetery. Cooper Funeral Home of Lake City was in charge of arrangements.



Ralph Perkins

JoAnn Rhoden, loved crafts, music

JoAnn Brooks Rhoden, 68, of Jacksonville died February 10, 2010. She was born in Jacksonville to the late Coker and Hazel Brooks on September 28, 1941 and was a resident of Macclenny from 1996 to 2005 before moving to Jacksonville.

Mrs. Rhoden was a member of Edgewood Heights Baptist Church. She was a spirited, loving and generous woman who was happiest with the simple things life had to offer. She was a strong and determined mother for 45 years, a dedicated wife for 33 years and a grandmother for 26 years. All who knew JoAnn, knew a humble woman.

She loved crafts, making and designing photo albums, crossword puzzles and listening to gospel and country music. She will be greatly missed and remembered.

Survivors include her loving children Stacy (Brian) Shirley, William Rhoden, Rodney Eugene Rhoden Jr., Joanna (Frank) Sage, all of Jacksonville and Terry (Shirleen) Rhoden of Macclenny; brothers J.W. Brooks and Edward Brooks; sisters Thelma Davis, Erma Jean McHale, Mildred Brooks, Mary Jane Amadou and Jackie Kruse; 11 grandchildren: many special friends.

A memorial service will be held February 19 at 1:00 pm at her church, 4011 Gilmore St. in Jacksonville, with Dr. H. Watson Moody officiating. A reception will follow at the church. Ferreira Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.



JoAnn Rhoden

Dewey Thorn, former pastor

Dewey Edward Thorn, 84, of Macclenny died Monday February 15, 2010 at Heartland Healthcare Center in Jacksonville following a long illness. He was born in New Brockton, Alabama and had resided in Jacksonville before moving to Macclenny 25 years ago.

He was the son of William Cary Thorn and Lillie Belle Bowdoin Thorn. He worked as a salesman with Ajax Fastener Company in Jacksonville for over 15 years and also was an ordained minister for 46 years and the former pastor of Cuyler Baptist Church of Baker County.

Mr. Thorn was a member of First Baptist Church of Macclenny and a Navy veteran of World War II. He was preceded in death by daughter Rosemary Elizabeth Wettstein.

Survivors include daughter Susanne (Jackie) Simmons of Baldwin; sons Gerald C. (Vicki) Thorn and William L. Thorn, both of Macclenny, Marion Thorn of Jacksonville; sister Sarah Nell Harrison of Kinston, AL; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on February 18 at the Mt. Zion New Congregational Methodist Church in Baker County with Rev. Bobby Griffin officiating. Interment will follow at Macedonia Cemetery. Guerry Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



Dewey Thorn

In Loving Memory Of T.J. Barton 8/17/1926 - 2/18/2000

True Love

This story tells the love and happiness of a couple truly in love!

The couple in this story started their wonderful life together in the month of February on the 14th day in 1948.

Thomas J. Barton "TJ" married Annie Mae Sparkman Barton at Farley Burnsed's house in Moniac, Georgia.

Annie Mae was 14 and TJ was 21 years of age. Annie Mae's mother Lilly Mae Sparkman was their witness.

They have five children, one son Rondal, and four daughters, Sue, Diane, Marlene and Carolyn.

They raised their children with love, respect and discipline. Through the years their love grew and grew for each other and their children.

On the 14th day of February, 2010 they will be married 62 years. T.J. has long went on to be with our Lord.

T.J. was an upstanding police officer of Baker County since 1961 and passed away as an active officer of the law.

Remaining is his widow and her love for him.

Annie Mae Barton and their five children, nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren miss him very much.

Annie Mae is still with us and very much in love with T.J. until this very day!

FROM YOUR LOVING CHILDREN, RONDAL, SUE, DIANE, MARLENE AND CAROLYN



In Loving Memory Of Garrett Scott Harris 3/23/1986 - 2/14/2007

Happy Valentine's Day, Son

Your bear hugs I surely miss
With every heart beat;
I still love you
With every heart beat;
I still miss you
With every heart beat;
I'm still wishing you were here with me
With every heart beat;
I will never forget you, my son...
Memories of you will live on in every beat of my heart.

LOVE, MOM, DAD, KAYLA AND JUSTIN

got comments suggestions complaints story ideas

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Sunday school ~ 10:00 am
Sunday service ~ 11:00 am
Wednesday night Bible Study ~ 6:30 pm
Family style dinner ~ 1st Sunday of the month following service

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Pastor Bobby & Faye Griffin

CELEBRATION Baptist Church

Celebration Baptist Church is located on Hwy. 121 in Macclenny
1169 South Sixth Street

40 days of LOVE

New Series Begins Sunday, February 21 at 10:29 a.m.

Pastor Elmer Crews • 259-0778

2 SPECIAL EVENTS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

John Starnes IN CONCERT
10:15 a.m.

Miracle Healing Service
6:00 p.m.

206 N. 5th St. ~ 259-6931 ~ macclennyag.com

Family grateful

The family of Paul Rhoden would like to give thanks to all of its family and friends who helped us through the loss of our loved one. Thanks to everyone who called, visited, sent cards and flowers, brought food, and especially the prayers that helped us through this difficult time. We extend our gratitude to the Macclenny Fire Department, the Baker County EMS., the BCSO the staff at Ed Fraser ER, Community Hospice, and Bill Guerry and staff.

We sincerely thank Pastor Shannon Connor and the Macclenny Church of God, and Pastors David and Timmy Thomas and Christian Fellowship Temple. May God bless each of you, as He has blessed us.

Violet Rhoden
Phil and Debbie Rhoden
Jana and Kevin Sowell
and children

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Classified ads and notices must be paid in advance, and be in our office no later than 4:00 pm the Monday preceding publication, unless otherwise arranged in advance. Ads can be mailed provided they are accompanied by payment and instructions. They should be mailed to: Classified Ads, The Baker County Press, P.O. Box 598, Macclenny, FL 32063. We cannot assume responsibility for accuracy of ads or notices given over the telephone. Liability for errors in all advertising will be limited to the first publication only. If after that time, the ad continues to run without notification of error by the person or agency for whom it was published, then that party assumes full payment responsibility. The Baker County Press reserves the right to refuse advertising or any other material which in the opinion of the publisher does not meet standards of publication.

For Sale

16' Coleman Sncoe \$300 or trade for Jon boat. 912-843-8268. 2/18p

2005 Kubota tractor L2800, 4 WD, very low hours, box blade, bush hog, 72" finishing mower, rotary tiller, 20' trailer, \$15,500. 487-5847. 2/18p

25'x36' garage trusses \$1500 OBO. 259-3300. 3/12fc

7x18 goose-neck trailer, very heavy duty, all metal, three axles, \$1500 OBO. 259-3763. 2/18-2/25p

Got roaches? Buy Harris Famous Roach Tablets or Powder. Eliminates roaches or your money back, guaranteed. Available at Bennett's Feed. 10/15fc

2003 38' 5th wheel Cedar Creek by Forest River, three-slides, fireplace with washer/dryer hook-up, very nice, \$19,500 OBO. 259-3763. 2/18-2/25p

Artists! Oils, acrylics, water colors, Canvases, drawing pads and much more! On sale now. The Office Mart, 110 S. Fifth Street, 259-3737. tfc

Ruger .44 mag. Redhawk 7 1/2" barrel, blue \$500. Smith and Wesson 10 mm. automatic, S.S., model 1076, \$600 OBO. 259-3763. 2/18-2/25p

Double back mortar mixer 40 hours on Honda motor \$2500. 1992 Lincoln Towncar, one owner, 88,000 original miles. \$3500. 259-2836. 2/11-2/18p

Side-by-side refrigerator with ice maker \$300, one ceramic top stove, less than five years old \$300 or both for \$500. One 5,000 BTU window A/C \$100, one elliptical stair machine \$50, one Chuck Norris total gym machine \$75, one 1/3 horse power Red Lion concrete mixer \$100, one ceiling fan \$25, one student electric guitar with amp, microphone and stand \$75. Total \$1025, purchase all for \$725. 259-4476. 2/18-2/25p

26' Boston Whaler walk-around with tower, new trailer \$20,000 with trailer, \$15,000 without. 954-263-7311. 2/11-3/4p

Three semi trailer tires, 11 R 22.5", two Bridgestone and one Cooper, \$100 each. Two used Bridgestone 295/75R 22.50. Regroovable \$50.00 each. Please call 259-6403 for more details. 2/18p

27" Orion TV and entertainment center \$125 for both. 653-1476. 2/11-2/18p

Motor and transmission out of 1993 S-10 SS, V6 Vortec automatic transmission with overdrive \$500. 497-3488. 2/18p

2002 Keystone Springdale 39' camper with two slide-outs, \$7500 OBO. 259-8000. 2/18-2/25p

Automobiles

2007 Suzuki Boulevard C50, 1800 miles, like new, excellent condition, no problems. Red and black, new soft side leather fringe saddlebags, \$5800 OBO. Call 626-8730 or 259-4806. 2/18p

1997 Toyota four door, four cylinder, automatic transmission, A/C, 98,472 miles, no title \$400 OBO. 912-843-8268. 2/18p

John Deere 750 diesel tractor with mower, low miles \$6,000. 571-0913. 2/18p

1966 Dodge Dart, four door, six cylinder, 82,000 original miles, \$900 OBO. 912-843-8268. 2/18p

2001 Chevy Blazer, four wheel drive, 4.3L V-6, two door, low mileage, good condition, \$3500. 904-259-4635, cell 497-2603. 2/18p

Animals

Dogs: all types from puppies to adults. Animal Control, \$65 adoption fees will apply. 259-6786. 11/20fc

Young pigs for sale 259-9139. 2/18p

Lost & Found

Lost: 35mm Nikon digital camera at park on Saturday. Please Call 259-2146. 2/18p

Two lost dogs, last seen at corner of Mud Lake and CR 22 on February 14. Black and white Chihuahua 'Bitsy' and Yorkie Terrier 'Mazzie' Reward. 904-626-0001. 2/18p

Found: Dog, found Sunday in Timberlane Subdivision. 904-885-2268. 2/18

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Help Wanted

Notice to readers:

The newspaper often publishes classified advertising on subjects like work-at-home, weight loss products, health products. While the newspaper uses reasonable discretion in deciding on publication of such ads, it takes no responsibility as to the truthfulness of claims. Respondents should use caution and common sense before sending any money or making other commitments based on statements and/or promises; demand specifics in writing. You can also call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP to find out how to spot fraudulent solicitations. Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. - The Baker County Press

Eighth Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judicial Assistant - #8320, position currently located in Baker County. Salary: \$30,539.42 annually plus health insurance at no cost and free parking. Position open until filled. For detailed information, visit our web site at: www.circuit8.org. 2/18-2/25c

Drivers, consistent high miles freight for teams or solo's willing to team. Top pay, great benefits and more. Werner Enterprises, 1-888-567-3101. 2/11-3/4p

Part-time residential service aide position, required high school diploma or GED, two years minimum experience in education, child care, medical, psychiatric, nursing fields or working with people with developmental disabilities. Apply in person at Comprehensive Community Services, Inc., 678 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063. ADA, EOE, drugfree workplace. 2/18c

Heavy duty diesel mechanic needed, Travel Centers of America, Baldwin location, 1024 US 301 South. Driver's license required. Please apply to Mark Holmes, Shop Manager. 904-266-4281, ext. 22. 10/1fc

Stone Transport, driver needed. CDL class A with Hazmat. Call 259-2314. 2/18-2/25c

Hair stylist wanted, commission or booth rental. Booth rental gets first two weeks free. Contact Glenda 259-7780 or 607-5673. 2/11-2/18p

Skilled A/C mechanic, must have experience in service work, ductwork, and A/C installation. Apply at dependable32063@netcom.net 10/15fc

RN weekend supervisor, Saturday/Sunday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday 8:00 am - 12:00. Experience preferred in LTC, must be a team player. If interested apply at Macclenny Nursing and Rehab. 2/11-2/25p

Real Estate

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3 BR, 2 BA house with city lot, \$78,500. 2 BR, 1 BA house with city lot, \$58,500. Eric Raulerson Construction. 483-8742. 2/11fc

One acre lot in Macclenny II \$49,900. 904-234-3437. 2/4-3/4p

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6 acres in North Macclenny \$75,000. 904-259-8028. 1/28-2/18c

3 acres, high and dry, fish pond, homes or mobile homes, set-up included, owner financing. 912-843-8118. 2/22fc \$248,900, desirable location, 4 BR, 2 BA home on one acre lot. Macclenny Realty, Inc. 904-962-8064. 2/18-2/25c

For Rent

2 BR, 2 BA 14x70, central H/A, in country, clean and new appliances, \$600/month, \$700 deposit. 259-6966. 2/18p

3 BR, 2 BA huge yard, close to 1-10, \$750/month, \$750 deposit. 476-0402. 2/11-2/18p

2 BR, 2 BA mobile home in the country, \$600/month, \$500 deposit. 923-2191. 2/4-2/25p

2 BR, 1 BA newly remodeled house, \$750/month plus deposit. 248-8549. 2/18-2/25p

2 BR, 1 BA, very clean \$300 deposit, \$550/month. Call 259-2787. 2/4-2/25p

Homes and mobile homes for rent from \$750-\$850 monthly. 259-2255. 11/13fc

2 or 3 BR mobile home for rent on 1/2 acre. Service animals only, garbage pickup, sewer, water and lawn maintenance provided, rent \$385-\$550, family neighborhood. 912-843-8118; 904-699-8637. 10/29fc

2 BR, 1 BA duplex, \$600/month, \$600 deposit. 259-6616. 2/18p

1 BR apartment, \$450/month, \$300 deposit, electric included, gas not included. 904-322-0310. 2/18-2/25p

2 and 3 BR mobile homes, central H/A, service pets only, water, lawn, garbage included. First, last and deposit required. 259-7335. 4/30fc

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BEAUTIFUL BRICK HOME! - MLS#496654 This 4BR 2BA hm is located on 1 acre w/stocked pond. Immaculate landscaped yard. Swim in your beautiful screened solar heated in ground pool. Lots of extras. \$279,900

GORGEOUS EQUESTRIAN LOT! - MLS#416015 Heavily treed lots. One horse per acre allowed. Located down winding roads in Colee Cove across from St. Johns River in historic St. Johns County. \$189,000

NEW RIVER PLANTATION - MLS#416054 Heavily treed lots. No building time frames. 2400 SF min. house. Build barn with apt no smaller than 350 SF. One horse per acre allowed. \$189,000

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JAX RANCH CLUB - MLS#451219 Get away from city by owning this spectacular vacant lot of 2.53 acres. Come canoe and ride horses. \$65,000

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YARD SALES

Friday and Saturday, 8:00 am-2:00 pm, Miltondale to River Circle, left at Suzanne Drive, turn right to Thomas Circle. Baby girl stuff and other house items.

Friday and Saturday, 8:00 am-?, 10345 Cedar Creek Farms Loop in Glen St. Mary. TV, furniture, clothes. Call 275-3009 for directions. ***Huge yard sale***

Friday 8:30 am-3:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am-2:00 pm, 9559 William Barber Road. Tools, household - all kinds, fans, kids toys, bet sander, a little of everything. Two family

Saturday, 8:00 am-noon, Macclenny II subdivision. Everything must go. Children's clothes - multiple sizes, toys, household items, etc. Multi-family

Saturday, 8:00 am-?, Corner of 23D and Maley Road. Westin polished step bars for extended Chevy truck, cherry armoire, girls and women's clothes, plus more. 259-6538.

Saturday, 8:00 am-noon, 125 N. Make right at caution light - 127N - across from Cuyler Baptist Church. Watch for signs. Good prices. Two family

St. George, doublewide, 3 BR, 2 BA, good condition, kitchen equipped, two wood decks, one acre fenced, \$650/month, will sell with owner financing. 904-879-2143. 2/18p

1 BR apartments now available, 1 BR \$500, 2 BR \$550, 50% off first months rent for qualified applicants. Quiet, established neighborhood. Call for more information 259-8444. 2/18fc

Mobile homes for rent from \$385 to \$575, garbage, water, sewage and lawn care included. 904-219-2690, 812-843-8165. 1/4fc

3 BR, 2 BA house, large rooms, newly refurbished tile floors and counters, new dishwasher, fenced back yard with storage shed, enclosed carport. 65 N. College Street, \$900/month, \$500 deposit. 386-546-2608. 2/18c

Mobile homes. 2 and 3 BR, A/C, service animals only, \$500-\$575 plus deposit. 904-860-4604. 3/17fc

Apartment for rent, 8015 US 90, Glen St. Mary. 2 BR, 1 BA \$550/month. Call 226-5703. 2/18p

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2 BR, 1 BA \$450/month plus deposit, references. 259-6528, 424-9589. 2/16p

Commercial Rental

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700 SF office space, highway 90 frontage downtown Macclenny, one block west of courthouse, \$550/month. Call 259-6546. 1/8fc

Commercial RE

Commercial property, 1566 SF, perfect for offices or small business. Old style home updated. \$143,000. Macclenny Realty Inc. Call 904-962-8064. 2/11-2/25c

Vacation Rental

Smoky Mountain cabin, with trout stream near Cherokee, Maggie Valley, Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Dollywood, \$350/week. 386-752-0013. 2/18-5/6p

Mobile Homes

16x80, 2006, 3 BR, 2 BA mobile home, hardwood floors, \$21,000 set-up and delivered. 334-8904. 2/18-2/25p

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Like new 1996 28x52 3 BR, 2 BA Horton \$19,900. 904-259-8028. 1/28-2/18c

Will move for free, 2010 4 BR, 2 BA only \$49,900. Call Chris. 904-783-4619. 2/11-2/18c

2004 Fleetwood 28x60, 3 BR, 2 BA all appliances included, \$28,500. 904-334-8904. 2/18-2/25p

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Rosie Nickles

Making sense of your cents

As a personal finance counselor, the most common question I hear is, "I'm ready to get control of my finances, but where do I start?"

With so many issues to consider and plan for, from getting out of debt to retirement to saving for college, it can be overwhelming to think about. Trying to spread your money and energy over all of these efforts at once won't get you very far and will leave you with a discouraged heart and a massive headache.

Have you made the decision to stop going into debt and to get control of your money? My advice is to divide and conquer!

Devoting all of your energy to one goal at a time is the *only* way to succeed with your money. Dave Ramsey's baby steps will help you do just that.

The first three steps take care of the "here and now" - they encourage you to clean up your financial mess before going any further. There's not much sense in planning for your financial future when you have a mess on your hands today.

✓ The first step that your family can start today is to scrape together some money (Dave Ramsey and I recommend \$1000) to set aside for emergencies while you tackle step two,

which is getting yourself out of debt.

✓ Step two involves getting down to a bare-bones budget while throwing every extra penny towards debt reduction. Start putting the extra dollars toward the smallest debt, eliminating it first, then work your way up to the largest debt. This is a very rewarding process, but often the most difficult because of the sacrifice it requires.

Yes, becoming debt-free is possible, but it demands temporary lifestyle changes such as cooking at home instead of eating out, selling that car you can't afford (gasp!) and telling your children "No" (double-gasp!). Get creative and you'll be surprised at how much money your family can cut from the budget - at least until you are debt-free!

✓ Once step two is completed, the third step is to beef up that emergency fund to three to six months' worth of expenses. You'll be surprised at how quickly this can be done now that your income isn't being tied up in monthly

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debt payments. Also, you'll have the peace of mind knowing that you have a cushion set aside. In case of an emergency, lay-off or other dire situation, you won't have to become a slave to a lender who is only out to make money off you.

✓ Step four advises you to secure your own future by starting to put 15% of your take-home income towards retirement.

✓ Step five is to save for your children's college if this applies to your family situation.

✓ Step six is to pay off your home.

The idea behind these steps is to focus your efforts on one goal at a time. The sacrifices these steps require are temporary, but the financial foundation and principles you will set for your children and your future will last a lifetime.

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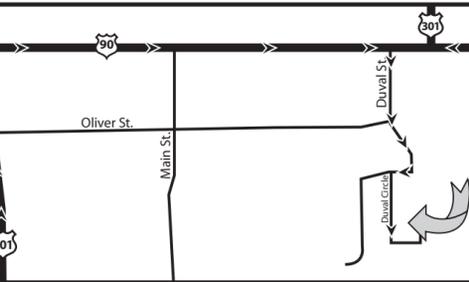
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Five generation get-together

Five generations of descendants of 95-year-old Isabelle Marmie of Ohio (center) gathered in Macclenny recently. Pictured above with her are (from right) her great-great granddaughter Lindsey Walker, her great-granddaughter Jennifer Walker, her granddaughter Tami Lyons and her daughter Bonnie Craig — all of Macclenny.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMI LYONS

New season, young roster

BOB GERARD
PRESS SPORTS

Mark this down as a rebuilding year for the Wildcat girls' softball team. After an appearance in the regional finals last year, new coach Jami Rodgers is fielding a very young team.

"We only have four seniors and Ashley Holton is out with a torn ACL," said Rodgers.

Despite the team's relative inexperience, Rodgers believes the squad has a solid work ethic.

"They work very hard; they are just real young. The sky's the limit, but most of my team is made up of freshmen and sophomores," he said.

After their opener against Columbia High was rained out,

the girls traveled to Lake City on February 13. They got a great pitching performance from Cami Craig, but fell to the Tigers 5-3.

"Our defense let us down in Lake City. We didn't come up with plays that are routine for us. Craig allowed just one earned run in the loss," said the coach.

Ashley Tracy had a strong outing at the plate with a double, and Craig helped her cause with a double and scored the first run of the game. Krista Smith added a two-run homer to tie the game at 3 in the fourth inning.

"We couldn't keep the momentum from the home run, and let their pitcher find a groove," said Rodgers. "We chased pitch after pitch outside the strike zone."

The girls had a better effort on February 11 when they got their first win with a victory over Trinity Christian. The Cats thrilled the home crowd with a 4-3 finish.

"The good thing about softball is you don't have to wait a week to play. The defense played a little better, but we still gave away two runs to the opposition," the coach said.

The Cats were down 3-1 in the

bottom of the fifth when Shelby Gatto singled to start the inning. Taylor McCann reached on an error and Ashley Tracy laid down a sacrifice bunt to move the runners up a base.

With two outs, Krista Smith delivered a clutch base hit up the middle to drive in the runs to tie the game at 3. In the bottom of the sixth, Derica Harvey reached safely on a single and Taylor Crumme laced a double into left center field. Gatto, who also started the game on the mound, lined a base hit to right driving in what would be the game-winning run.

Cami Craig came in to pitch in the fifth inning and did not allow another base runner the rest of the game.

Lady lifter finishes 8th

Six Lady Wildcat weightlifters competed this past weekend at the state weightlifting meet at River Ridge High School in New Port Richey.

Taytum McCullough was the top finisher for the girls with an 8th place finish in the 119-pound class. Here's a breakdown of the competition by weight classification:

- Delaney Walker in the 101-pound class bench pressed 105 pounds and lifted the same in the clean and jerk for 210 total pounds and 11th place.

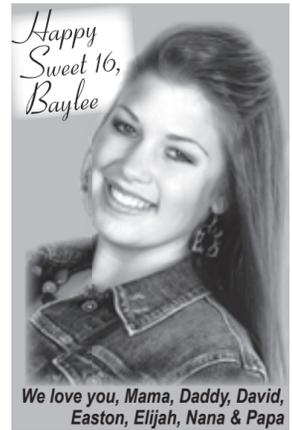
- Ashleigh Rafuse in the 110-pound class benched 85 pounds and lifted 95 pounds in the clean and jerk for 180 total pounds and 24th place.

- Taytum McCullough in the 119-pound class benched 125 pounds and added 140 pounds in the clean and jerk for a 265 total and 8th place.

- Jordan Hand, from the 139-pound class benched 125 pounds, had 140 pounds in the clean and jerk for a 265 total and 18th place.

- Kasey Russell, from the unlimited weight class, benched 170 pounds and lifted 125 more in the clean and jerk for a 295 total and 20th place.

Tiffany Braddy competed but did not place. The team is coached by Scott McDonald.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

February 19

District-wide: Progress reports. BCHS: State wrestling tournament @ Lakeland, 9:00 a.m. BMS: Accelerated reading test due. PK/K: Accelerated reader morning in computer lab, 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Dental health presentation by Dr. George Weeks

February 20

BCHS: State Wrestling Tournament @ Lakeland, 9:00 a.m. Baseball @ Frostproof, 12:00 p.m. BMS: 6th Grade Math "FCAT Blitz", 8:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. 8th grade science "FCAT Blitz", 8:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Band solo and ensemble contest. KIS: Reading FCAT Blitz

February 22

BCHS: Tennis vs. Union (H), 3:00 p.m. Junior varsity and varsity Softball vs. Fort White (H), 5:00 p.m. BMS: Softball vs. Madison (H), 6:00 p.m. PK/K: Accelerated reader morning in computer lab, 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

February 23

BCHS: Tennis vs. Yulee (H), 3:00 p.m. BMS: Softball @ Live Oak, 4:00 p.m. WES: Good Morning Show club mtg., 8:00 a.m. PK/K: Accelerated reader morning in computer lab, 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Kindergarten Readiness, 6:00 p.m.

February 24

BCHS: Baseball @ Lake City, 7:00 p.m. PK/K: Accelerated reader morning in computer lab, 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.



PHOTO BY JOEL ADDINGTON

Shelter volunteer honored

Baker County Animal Control director Georgia Monfort (left) presented Adriana Sims, 20, with a plaque honoring her as the animal shelter's volunteer of the year during the county commission's meeting February 16. Ms. Sims is attending veterinary school and works at Bennett's Feed. She is the third recipient of the award and has assisted with the shelter's pet photo fund raiser, getting animals ready for appearances at community events and judging the dog show that animal control hosts at the county fair. "Even though she is extremely shy, her willingness and love for animals shines through her shyness," said Ms. Monfort.

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School Lunch MENU

February 22 - February 26

Offered everyday:

Cold lunch plate of chef salad with wheat roll or crackers and dessert (when offered) 1% lowfat white milk, 1/2% lowfat flavored milk, orange juice.

Monday, February 22

Breakfast: Sausage biscuit, fruit juice and milk

Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce and a slice of homemade wheat Italian bread of fish crisp on a bun, choice of 2 sides: baked potato rounds, creamy coleslaw, steamed broccoli and a homemade chocolate chip cookie

Tuesday, February 23

Breakfast: Cereal with slice of toast, fruit juice and milk

Lunch: Beef stroganoff over egg noodles with a homemade wheat roll or breaded chicken patty on a bun, choice of 2 sides: golden corn, lettuce and tomato slices, chilled fruit choice and a roasted peanut cup (gr. 7-12)

Wednesday, February 24

Breakfast: Chicken biscuit, fruit juice, milk

Lunch: Hamburger or hot dog on a bun, choice of 2 sides: baked french fries, lettuce and tomato slices, creamy cole slaw

Thursday, February 25

Breakfast: Pancake and sausage on a stick, fruit juice and milk

Lunch: Tasty chili with beans or oven baked chicken with rice and gravy both entrees offered with a homemade wheat roll, choice of 2 sides: baked potato rounds, raw veggies with ranch dressing, fruit choice

Friday, February 26

Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit juice and milk

Lunch: Slice of pepperoni pizza or cheeseburger on a bun, choice of 2 sides: baked french fries, seasoned mixed vegetables, chilled applesauce and a homemade cookie

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Wildcats' playoff run dashed by Snyder in district tourney

**BOB GERARD
PRESS SPORTS**

The Wildcat basketball team's season came crashing to an end as it fell 44-36 to Bishop Snyder in the finals of the District North Tournament February 11 at BCHS.

"They just took our game plan away from us," said Coach Charles Ruise. "They came out more aggressive and did things on transition that we didn't have an answer for."

One of the biggest factors in the loss to a team the Wildcats defeated twice during the regular season was that their second leading scorer, Chris McCray, got in early foul trouble and finished with only four points.

Snyder played a controlled offense and an aggressive defense that forced fouls and put the Cats on the back foot early. Ruise knew that it would be a low scoring game, but the Wildcats played into the Cardinals' hands when they got into foul trouble.

McCray went out with early fouls and Isaac Johnson got into foul trouble on the inside. That left Chris Walton with the scoring resting on his shoulders and he was cold in the early going.

Snyder led 15-9 as it kept the game at a snail's pace, passing the perimeter and looking for the open shot. The Cats got increasingly frustrated as their fast break game was slowed to a crawl.

Snyder extended the lead to 29-15 at the end of the third period, but the Cats upped the pace in the final quarter as Walton found his scoring touch. He hit 10 of his 14 points in the final period.

But Snyder center Garrett Naughton controlled the inside game and hit easy layups as Snyder pushed the ball inside after perimeter passing.

Walton had 14 points and Kendrick Singleton and Johnson each had 5 points.

The Cats won their way into the finals with a 73-66 victory over Baldwin in overtime two days before. The game was a basket-for-basket affair as the Indians played well above the level that they had in two previous losses to the Cats.

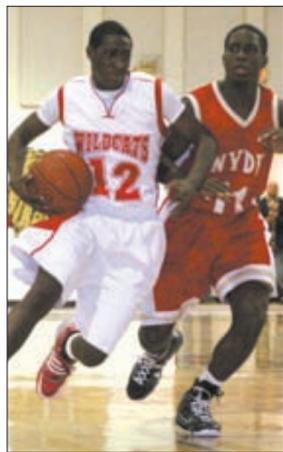
The game stayed close throughout the regulation, with each team trading scores. Baldwin led by a point at the half and also at the end of the third quarter, but BCHS pulled even, thanks to hot fourth quarter shooting from Chris McCray and Isaac Johnson. The pair combined for 16 of the Wildcats' 19 fourth period points.

BCHS had a chance to go for the win with seconds to go, but instead of taking an open two-point shot with the game tied at 53, they kicked it back out for an unnecessary three-point effort that banged off the rim.

The Cats completely controlled the overtime period, outscoring Baldwin 10-3 as Walton got hot when it counted. Walton, who was scoreless in the second half, hit for 6 points in overtime to secure the win.



PHOTOS BY JUD JOHNSON
Clockwise from above, Blaine Finley drives against Bishop Snyder defenders as does Marcelle Gayden and Isaac Johnson.



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Expectations for next coach

**BOB GERARD
PRESS SPORTS**

A lot of people are interested in who will be the next football coach at Baker County High, but few have as much a stake in the decision as Wildcat Booster Club president Fred Munson.

Munson, whose club has pumped more than \$400,000 into the football program over the last four years, has strong feelings about the selection process for the new coach. Above all, he is anxious that the discipline and level of competition instilled by Coach Bobby Johns continue with the new hire — and that the new coach come in as quickly as possible.

"We'd have liked a new coach last week if the truth be known," Munson said with a chuckle. He might have been laughing, but he was dead serious. With spring practice looming, logistically, a new head coach is very important to the boosters.

This is particularly true if the new coach brings in a new offense and defense that players will have to learn, although Munson downplays those elements.

"I'm not sure that matters," he said. "The discipline bar has been raised pretty high so whoever comes in they'll work as hard as they need to for him."

Athletic Director Melody Coggin also knows that she is under time constraints. "I set a deadline of March 1, but that was just in my mind. I really think that it will be before then."

Though Munson and the boosters don't have a hand in choosing the next head coach, he does hope that the selection committee won't just sit back and review the coaches who have turned in applications, but actively seek out a new head coach.

"We can't just sit on our laurels, we have to find someone of the caliber that Bobby has built over the last four years. We need someone who'll pick up the pieces and move on," Munson said.

Coggin agreed. "We've had about 60 applications right now. We've had some very strong candidates with good records if we had to go just by the applications," she said. "But we're also contacting some people that we'd like to see apply. I'd rather

not name any names, but we've got a few we're looking at. In fact, one is meeting with his principal today to let him know that he's interested in talking to us."

Like Coggin, Munson has strong ideas of who he would like to see as the new head coach, but also like the athletic director, he declined to go public with his hopes. He did however set certain standards that a new coach would be expected to meet.

"It isn't just about winning, though of course we want to win. It's about making men out of these boys and teaching them lessons that they'll carry later in life," he said.

Though Munson won't remain the booster club president, he feels certain that the club will continue to work just as hard for the new head coach as they have for Johns.

"I don't think we have a choice but to continue if we want the community to keep up its sup-

port," he said.

Since the booster club was started four years ago, it has been an invaluable asset to the Wildcat coaches. The club furnished motor coaches taking the players to away games. Boosters provided pregame meals and upgraded the weightlifting state championship rings. They fund the awards banquet and have bought jackets and uniforms for players and cheerleaders.

Last season the boosters raised \$67,000 and 97 percent of the money went back to the athletic program. "The community has been phenomenal, they've just stepped up time and again," Munson said.

He's convinced that whoever runs the Wildcat Boosters will have the community's support and that together they will jump on the new coach's bandwagon. They just hope that it will happen soon.

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PHOTOS BY JUD JOHNSON

'Troops' take the field 146 years after Olustee Battle for historical re-enactment

Pictured are some of the many images from this year's re-enactment of the Civil War's Battle of Olustee. More than 1700 re-enactors from as far as Massachusetts donned period costumes to take part in the battle and accompanying festivities last weekend. Above is the firing line of Confederate soldiers. At right is Austin Bledsoe enjoying a snack of peanuts after the hard-fought battle. Below is another Confederate soldier charging into the fray next to his commanding general.



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